

AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR

THE INDEPENDENT



Alan Lewis

A mother murdered in cold blood to sabotage the hopes of peace

was bad enough yesterday: a female solicitor, the mother of three young children, having her legs blown off, being cut free by firemen from the ruins of her car, then dying in hospital, in ain and in blood.

Then came the next nightmare: that the assassination, an act carried out both in cold blood and in great hatred, might sabotage all the hopes for ace and political progress.

This was plainly its aim, at a time when most key Northern Ireland politicians were in Vashington gearing up for a negotiating session later this month aimed at breaking the deadlock on decommissioning

Those who planted the bomb that took Rosemary Nelson's life clearly wished both to affect the future, by derailing the peace process, and to punish her. In recent years she had acted not solicitor, but as a champion of the beleaguered Catholics of Portadown, Co Armagh. The attack came at iunch-

time yesterday in Lurgan, not far from Portadown. The booby trap, which is assumed to be the work of loyalists, detonated as the solicitor drove her BMW car away from her home at Ashford Grange. The bomb went off as she approached a junction, possibly activated as she applied the brakes. One of the firemen who was at the scene said they found Mrs Nelson with "hor-- rendous" injuries. She was cut free and taken to the intensive- a spirited defence, in the courtcare unit of a nearby hospital, where she died at 3.10pm. Her eight-vear-old daughter Sarah. was at school not far from the scene of the explosion, while her

two sons were abroad skiing. Mrs Nelson was unusual among Northern Ireland solicitors in that she went beyond the normal run of court work carried out for individual clients. She went on television to criticise both loyalist organisations and the security forces.

She was particularly critical of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which, she alleged, colluded with extreme loyalists and paid less than due regard to the rights of nationalists. Within hours of her death



by local nationalists, who made it clear that they blamed not just loyalists but also the security forces for her killing. Graffiti appeared in Lurgan

just as an ordinary defence proclaiming Rosemary Nelson the people's voice - murdered by the RUC/RIR", a reference to the locally recruited section of the army the Royal Irish Regiment. Around 200 placards calling for the RUC's disbandment marched to Lurgan RUC station, where they staged a largely silent protest.

They passed close to the spot where in July 1997 the IRA killed two RUC constables, John Graham and David Johnston. When a leading local republican, Colin murders, Mrs Nelson mounted room and in the media, and the charges were dropped.

A year ago a United Nations report documented Mrs Nelson's allegations that she had been the target of death threats. She also accused an RUC officer of spitting in her face and calling her a "Fenian" sympathiser, and another of striking her on the head with a riot shield during a street confrontation.

The Graham and Johnston killings caused Tony Blair publicly to question the worth of the peace process. They also raised the temperature in the run-up to the annual July Drumcree marching dispute. Rosemary Nelson's death seems bound to have a similar effect. With



Officers sealing off the area around the wreckage of the car that blew up as Rosemary Nelson drove in Lurgan, Co Armagh, yesterday

Drumcree only months away, no agreed formula has emerged to avoid a repeat of the highly damaging episodes which annually sour community relations. Although some have been hopeful that progress in averting another confrontation could be made, her death will worsen

spilled on to the streets of status of martyr. Lurgan as crowds of youths attacked the RUC and Army near Mrs Nelson's bombed-out

Last night, nationalist anger car, and petrol bombs and stones were thrown on the nationalist Kilwilkee estate.

There were signs that with-

Dolores Kelly, the nationalist deputy mayor of Craigavon, who went to school with Rosemary Nelson, said: "She was very much respected and was seen as a heroine in the local commu-

huge repository of mistrust. in hours of her death Mrs Nel- justice, many felt sometimes son was being elevated to the the voice in the wilderness." From Washington, the First Minister designate, Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble,

> said he was horrified by the killing. He called on loyalists "to realise that there is no point whatsoever in violence". The crusader, page 2

EU fraud and mismanagement are 'out of control', says report

THE EUROPEAN Commission BY STEPHEN CASTLE was hit by a catalogue of criticism last night as a report into fraud slated Edith Cresson, commissioner for education and training, and accused Jacques Santer, Commission president, of allowing events to run "out of control".

ro The report found cases where "commissioners or the Commission as a whole bear responsibility for instances of fraud, irregularities or mismanagement" but said they had not personally benefited.

The findings, the most tion project even though she icised to "consider their posi-

AND KATHERINE BUTLER in Brussels AND ANDREW GRICE

was "in full possession of the facts". They also attack the fundamentals of the institution

As the Commission executive met to discuss the report, MEPs called for the resignation of Ms Cresson and Mr Santer.

Britain suggested that heads should roll. "It is clear the Commission needs to put its house in order," Downing damning verdict delivered on Street said. "The Commission Brussels, find Ms Cresson, a has made a start but a lot more former French prime minister, needs to be done." Asked guilty of "favouritism" and of whether Mr Santer and Ms staying silent over irregularities Cresson should resign, Number in the £400m Leonardo educa- 10 said it was up to those crit-



tions carefully." Ms Cresson has emerged as the report's chief target. She was criticised over the appointment of a friend, the dentist René Berthelot, to the position of scientif-

His appointment was "manifestly irregular", the fivestrong inquiry argued, citing his frequent paid missions to his home town on supposed commission business as evidence of the "fictitious nature of the scientific advice he was supposed

On Ms Cresson's handling of the Leonardo exchange project, the document says she "bears further serious responsibility for having failed, though in full possession of the facts, to inform the president of the Commission of the problems of implementing Leonardo One".

That meant decisions were being taken in the European Parliament on future funding of the project without crucial information being imparted.

More broadly, the findings

question the whole operation of the Commission. The report says "protestations of ignorance on the part of commissioners concerning problems that were often common knowledge in the services, even up to the highest official levels, are tantamount to the admission of the loss of control by the political authorities over the administration that they are

supposedly running. Monika Walf-Mathies, commissioner for regional aid, was also attacked for nepotism. Others were cleared, including Joao de Deus Pinheiro, whose brother-in-law was appointed chef de cabinet, a senior post in the private office.

Fat cats share cream, page 4 Leading article, Review, page 3



TOP AWARD

ROBERT FISK, The Independent's Middle East Correspondent, yesterday won the London Press Club's prestigious Edgar Wallace Award for outstanding reporting. The judges said: "If there's a black spot in the world, there's a strong chance Fisk will be there. The Independent is now one of Britain's best newspapers and Robert Fisk is one of its best reporters." The award comes when the paper's circulation shows a year-onyear increase for the first time in three years.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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INSIDE THIS SECTION

PKK warns tourists A Kurdish rebels warned that Turkish tourist areas were now targets

> Bulger case ruling Trial was unfair, human rights commission says

Kosovo peace talks Ethnic Albanians agreed to sign deal drawn up by international mediators Foreign P12

US prison total soars US will soon have world's highest jail population Foreign P13

Renault-Nissan link Renault is poised to forge a £2.6bn alliance with Nissan Business P15

Italians in disarray Internazionale admit 'no game plan for Man Utd Sport P26

INSIDE THE REVIEW David Aaronovitch Anyone who thinks divorce doesn't harm children is deluded

Andrew Marshall The key to world history is shopping mails

Comment P3

Turning screws Prison officers may be all over TV, but what do the prisoners think? Features P8

Jonathan Keates What's the fuss about Handel all of a sudden?

****THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW**

So, Eileen Drewery, do you think you'd have been burned as a witch in the Middle Ages?

GLENN HODDLE'S FAITH HEALER ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

爾ARTS 'SMACK THE PONY': SO IS IT FUNNY OR WHAT? **PLUS** FASHION AND THEATRE

RITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN VINER.

Solicitor risked safety to speak out

ALTHOUGH SHE worried about BY DAVID MCKITTRICK her security in an area regarded as one of the most bitterly divided even by Northern Ireland standards, Rosemary Nelson continued to maintain a high public profile.

The risks were obvious. She the nationalist community of which has been the subject of scores of loyalist demonstrations since the security forces stopped the Orange Order from

marching along it last July. In January, for example, she accompanied a delegation of local nationalists who met Tony Blair in Downing Street. She also acted for the family of Robert Hamill, who was kicked to death by loyalists several years ago in an incident which continues to attract political

Mrs Nelson also represented around 200 nationalists who

tion from the Royal Ulster Constabulary over Drumcree-related incidents.

She often acted not just as a legal representative but as a became closely identified with public spokesperson for such causes. Just yesterday for ex-Portadown's Garvaghy Road, ample, the Belfast nationalist paper the Irish News featured comments by her in its lead story and in another article.

> The front-page story revealed that Robert Hamill's sister would address a meeting in Belfast later this month together with Duwayne Brooks, who was with Stephen Lawrence when he was murdered in London. Mrs Nelson was quoted as saying: "The full details of the Hamili case are even more horrific than the facts of the Lawrence case. He was targeted because he was a Catholic. We are seeing racism here, racism

Ireland Correspondent

Rosemary Nelson (left) with a Garvaghy Road residents' delegation in Downing Street after a meeting with the Prime Minister in January. She maintained a high public profile despite fears for her security

John Voos In the other article she complained of what she said was a low level of arrests of Orange Order supporters in the continuing Drumcree protests. Quot-

ing a parliamentary answer which said that 38 illegal Orange marches have taken place since June, she said: "The law has been flouted openly."

She added: "We have a na-

living in a village on the edge of count highly unpopular with the a town. It is not about conflictpolice, whom she accused of assaulting her on a number of occasions. When a United Nations Such sentiments would not investigator put her allegations endear her to the Orange Ord- to the Government, the official reply was that she had made

er, or to the fringe loyalist organisations who have been complaints but had not made prepared to use violence in supherself available for interview to port of what they view as the Or-Most Northern Ireland solicange right to march.

adopting crusading positions following the loyalist assassination of a prominent Catholic solicitor, Pat Finucane, in 1989. Since then most have stuck firmly to the technicalities of the law, eschewing public controversies and confining their activities to the strictly legal. Mrs Nelson was therefore highly unusual in being prepared to take

UDA 'may be drifting back to killings'

ALTHOUGH IT was regarded as instantly obvious yesterday that loyalists of some description were responsible for the death of Rosemary Nelson, the authorities will worry that the attack represents an ominous sign of the state of the cease-fires of major loyalist groupings. The security forces and the

eroment will fear that the attack was carried out by, or with the assistance of, a major loyalist grouping such as the Ulster Defence Association (UDA).

There have been recent concerns that the UDA, one of the two big loyalist paramilitary outfits, was showing signs of be-coming detached from the peace process. The grouping has found itself out in the cold its political wing failed to win seats in the Belfast assembly.

The fear has been that without a political anchor it might drift away from the peace process and return to killings. Loyalists have in recent months been the main source

of violence in Northern Ireland. They have carried out roughly the same number of "punishment" attacks as the IRA, and have also petrol-bombed several dozen Catholic homes.

The level of killings has by Northern Ireland standards been low, loyalists have been re-

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK

deaths since last September. Two of these were carried out by a small splinter group, the Red Hand Defenders. But although this group has

some guns most of its attacks have been carried out using crude petrol-bombs or pipebombs. The question therefore arises of whether it had the capacity to make a device such as that which killed Mrs Nelson. The UDA, however, has in the past used such devices.

There is also a historical pointer towards the UDA in that the organisation was responsible for the killing in 1989 of # solicitor, Pat Finucane, who like Mrs Nelson was viewed as of late, since representatives of a highly effective advocate for nationalists and republicans.

Mr Finucane's case remains a political issue, with allegations of official collusion gathering ground. Only last month more than a thousand legal figures from all over the world signed a petition calling for an investigation into his death. Last night republicans and nationalists were already alleging security force involvement in Mrs Nelson's murder. Her killing seems destined to join that of Mr Finucane in the annals of the many cases accruing more and more allegations as the

Britons will be bomb targets, say Turkish rebels A serious disruption of the lowing Mr Ocalan's capture "a substantial number of ter- Nowman of Savile Row Tours don said: "We take this very se-

were warned yesterday by Kurdish nationalist rebels that they in Istanbul are likely to become targets in which has already resulted in

The Foreign Office urged British visitors to be "aware of the dangers", following a spate of explosions. Both the German and Dutch governments said they were viewing the situation

BRITISH TOURISTS to Turkey By Kim SENGUPTA AND JUSTIN HUGGLER

> fully inform their citizens of the risks involved.

The PKK, the Kurdistan Workers Party, which launched the current wave of bombings following the capture of its leader, Abdullah Ocalan, by Turkish authorities declared

areas of tourism

"It is essential that no tourist firms Thomson, Airtours and comes to Turkey, that govern- First Choice said they were ments warn their citizens and that travel companies cancel

zone "and tourists are likely to Turkish market would be a fi- last month the PKK bombed an rorist incidents and public dis- and Travel Ltd in London, riously, but we have put in get caught up in the crossfire". nancial blow for a number of Istanbul shopping centre on turbances in Istanbul and whose first bookings to Turkey place all the precautions to The group declared "All of tour operators. Turkey has Saturday, killing 13. The city was sporadic attacks elsewhere in are for the second week of has become a field of become an extremely popular hit by three bombs, with a the country". Later a spokes- April, said he was waiting, like war This includes the areas destination for UK families. seen by the Turkish republic as attracting a million British vis-

> awaiting further guidance from the Foreign Office. In the current campaign fol-

fourth defused. Yesterday the man said this was being revised offensive continued with two itors every year. The travel bombs in Ankara, one person was injured.

After the weekend bombings the Foreign Office warned British tourists to take "sensi-

ings in Ankara and the warning from the PKK.

The PKK has issued such warnings before and a few travel firms were sceptical of

others for Foreign Office guidin the light of yesterday's bomb- ance. But he added: "It is just scaremongering. The pressure Ocalan court case and then it sequences."

will die down."

every year and I do not think they can do anything to harm British tourists - if they did they will be unrelenting until the [the PKK] would see the con-

Nine million people visit Savas Kuce, director of the Turkey each year, earning the ble precautions" in the light of the extent of the threat. Mike Turkish Tourist Office in Lon- country £4.4bn in 1997.

. .1

BRITAIN TODAY Noon today Wind speed, mpt and direction

FORECAST

General struction Southern and western England and Wales will have a dry and mid spring day with summy spells after any early fog has cleared. Northern and eastern England will also be mid but will start off cloudy with drazel in places before bigittering up this afternoon. Scotland will be mostly cloudy with outbree of rain, these most frequent in the west; there will be extensive bill-fog. Northern fretand will also have rain in the west but the east will have a few summy breaks. Cent 5 & SW England, Channel Is, Wates: A dry day with decent spells of sur-shine after any early log has decred. A light and variable wind. Mar temp 11-13C (52-597)

patchy rain and drizzle gradually dying out in the aftern i west to south-west wind, Max temp 12-15C (54-59F). NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Mostly cloudy and wet, the rain easing in the afternoon, A fresh to strong south-west wind, Max temp 11-13C (52-55F). M tretand: A cloudy morning with outbreaks of rain and drizzle. Oner and brighter later, A moderate to fresh south-west wind. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F).

Alost parts will be dry and mild tomorrow with pienty of sunstane, the best of it in Wales and the south-west. It will continue dry in the south on Thursday with sunny spells. The north will be cloudy and breezy with showery outbreaks of rain.

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leysonstone, Major roadworks or new M11 link road, Until 31st Decomber. Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roedworks or Avonnouth Bndge. Until 23rd June 2001. Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tarrworth servers and J9 Sutton Coldfield. Floathronks and contraliow. Until 23rd April. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Vladuct. (A6109) 8 J34 Tinsley Vladuct (A6179). Sheffield. Carrageway is reduced to two lanes southbound. Until. 21st Alexembre 2000.

Cheftenham. Closed due to madworks inbound. Diversions in place. Until 1st June.

1st August. Derbyshire: A6 Between Derby Southam Bypasa (A50) and Shardlow Road round-about. East of Aivaston. Contraflow for work on new A50. Until 15th October.

AA Roadwatch; Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news.

Source: The Automobile Association. Calls

LIGHTING UP EXTREMES 6.29pm 6.13pm 6.16pm 6.22pm 6.06pm 6.14pm 6.13pm to 6.23am 6.16pm to 6.21am 6.22pm to 6.28am 6.06pm to 6.11am 6.14pm to 6.20am 6.11pm to 6.18am Supplest: Selsev 11 hrs For 24hrs to 2pm Monday HIGH TIDES

MO2 SO2 Moderate Good Good Good Moderate Good Good Good Good Good Good Good SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 06.14 Sun sets: 18.06 Moon sets: 16.31

WEATHERLINE followed by the two digits for your area Source: The Met. Office, Calls charged at

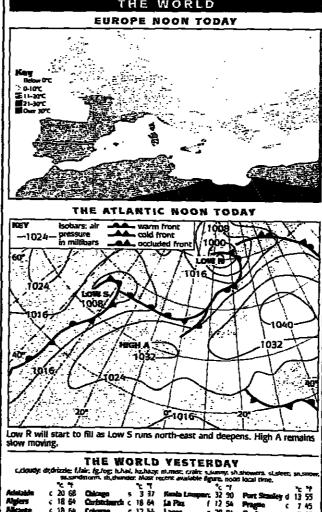


YESTERDAY Coldest (day): Lerwick 8C (46F) Wettest: Aulthea 12 mm

RAIN OR

SHINE... FLOODS IN central Mozam bique have killed 23 people and left more than 6,000 people homeless, the United Nations said yesterday.

The UN report estimates more than 70,000 people have been affected by the flooding, brought on by three months of rain. The worst-hit district is the coastal area around Vilankulo and flooding has also blocked Mozambique's main northsouth highway, isolating the



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The barbaric treatment of dogs in Asia.

WSPA has uncovered gruesome practices in Asia's factory farms, where dogs are bred to meet the intense demand for pets. The dogs are crammed so tightly into cages that their limbs are intertwined. Disease and starvation are rife. Some have their vocal cords cut to reduce noise. Many end up slaughtered for meat by being electrocuted or even skinned alive. WSPA is working to end these barbaric practices and introduce stronger animal protection laws throughout Asia. But we

•	coperately need your support.
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■ THE INDEPENDENT

SOISH FUNNY FUNNY FUNNY Bulger killers win review

reacted angrily yesterday to a Home Affairs Correspondent ruling by the European Commission of Human Rights that the way for the case to go her son's killers had been denied a fair trial.

The Commission unheld complaints lodged by lawyers when they killed two-year-old fore killing him and leaving his

before a full human rights hear-

ing later this year Venables and Thompson were convicted of murder after they abducted James and dragged him for two miles beFergus, said yesterday that she would "fight until the day I die if I have to" against any moves to review the convictions.

She said: "They say they were unfairly treated - why didn't they stop the case when it was going on, instead of waiting six years before they say it?

"I don't think they were unfairly treated in any way. They

James's mother, Denise had top lawyers, social workers, treatment. But it agreed that ergus, said yesterday that she care workers. They had the best they had been prevented from of everything."

Rex Makin, the solicitor who acted for James's father, said the ruling was another "turn of the knife" for the family.

The Commission rejected claims that the court case, in which the boys faced adult criminal procedures, amounted to "inhuman and degrading"

participating effectively in their trial, violating Article Six of the European Convention on Human Rights.

It also found that the article had been contravened by the sentencing role played by the Home Secretary, who was not "an independent and impartial

compelled to free the boys, but if the full hearing finds that their human rights were breached. it would be forced to change the way it tries children accused of serious crimes in the future.

It could also curb the Home Secretary's future powers to decide the sentencing of convicted minors. The trial judge recommended that the boys

eight years. This was later increased to 15 years by the then home secretary. Michael Howard. The law lords ruled last year that Mr Howard had

acted unlawfully. In its ruling, the Commission said the pair were placed in a raised dock, as the focus of intense public attention over a period of three weeks, and said

child gave evidence. But Albert Kirby, the detec-

tive superintendent who headed the investigation, said the dock was raised so the boys could see what was going on. "Even the parents [of the defendants) were very grateful for all the work we did." he said.

Leading article

ting back The dark illings' wortex th vortex that the death of the last specific limit the death of the of these were last specific limit the death of the of these were last specific limit the death of the of these were last specific limit the death of the of these were last specific limit the death of the of these were last specific limit the death of the of these were last specific limit the death of the of these were last specific limit the death of the of these were last specific limit the death of the of so conserved as the erace of the control of the con distribution with a recommendate that the state of the st the condition was read the collection was read to be collected by Francisco the collection of the coll many lives

FOR SEVERAL years the dark vortex that lies at the heart of the Bulger murder case has lain dormant. But it never takes much to fire it up again. And within minutes of the news from Strasbourg yesterday that the European Commission had decided that there was something deeply wrong with the way we dealt with the entire affair, the frenzy began.

Was it justice to expose two 10-year-olds, both educationally subnormal, sucking their thumbs and falling asleep, to the full panoply of a threeweek jury trial, during which they said not a word and understood practically nothing of ment for a populist politician, release and redemption. the then home secretary Michael Howard, reacting to an almost hysterical public derule the judge and increase their sentence from eight years to 15 years? Was Britain justified in stating that children of 10 are old enough to be criminally responsible in the first

lace? In coming days this frenzy will increase and Britain will, as it always has done when James Bulger's face appears in the newspapers, divide into two

implacable and angry camps. The first, and by far the largest, will be outraged by the news. James's murder, to them, as uniquely evil, and therefore empson and Venables, no matter how young they were, were also evil. In the words of one newspaper, "those little monsters must grow old and rot in jail" for the rest of their lives. This camp, and it includes many on the soft left, want no more Mary Bells living free on social security and making money out of their memoirs.

The other camp, and it is very small, consists of those who feel that Britain's reaction to the murder was barbarous and fuelled by a lynch-mob mentality. It is led by a determined legal team who have fought for six years to prove that the trial was a cruel farce, that the murder was not premeditated, and the killers, two practically illiterate children fre a difficult backgrounds, consuitted an act so unfathomable that they could not explain

it even to psychiatrists. It is clear that this savage and strange affair will never



JAMES DALRYMPLE

body is right and nobody is wrong in their attitudes. Denise Fergus, James's mother, has every right to her blind hatred of the killers. And the mothers of Thompson and Venables have the right to fight for their

Whatever the outcome in the European Court of Human Rights, the Bulger murder is no mand for vengeance, to over- longer a matter for contemplation and compassion. It has entered that strange and macabre pantheon of criminal freakery that includes dark icons such as Myra Hindley, Mary Bell, Rosemary West and Reggie Kray.

Whatever the endgame may be, nobody can doubt the scale and depth of the tragedy. Dozens of people had their life

disrupted for ever. Mrs Fergus and her former husband, Ralph, were shattered by the loss of their child and the venomous rumour mill that accused them of profiting financially from the publicity and a huge fund that was launched in James's name.

They were a loving young couple but their marriage broke down in the mayhem. Although she is now recovered and worksumed with hatred. In the man- But their mothers, Ann Thompner of the Moors Murder victims' mothers, she seems to wait for any hint of their release before launching into a powerful attack on the killers and their

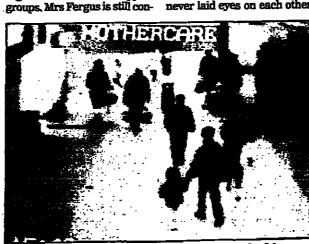
And what of Venables and Thompson, living in private suites in separate remand centres? They are now 16, both grossly overweight through

boredom eating and almost unrecognisable from the cherubic snapshots that once filled the newspapers. They are allowed unlimited visits from their parents, and are watched constantly by experts so deep that even he cannot reskilled in the understanding of haviour. The psychiatrists have prodded and probed at them for vears, but according to sources inside their legal teams, neither boy has ever admitted killing

Neither has shown any signs of aberrant behaviour. They are neither violent nor disruptive. They watch censored videos and go to daily school classes. Both have now reached almost normal reading ability and Thompson is said to have a reasonably high IQ.

But each one continues to blame the other. It is now clear they may have mentally erased, perhaps for ever, large parts of that day. In a couple of years' time they are scheduled to move into adult prisons, perhans under new names. But it will not take long for the prison grapevine to identify them, and for their own safety they will probably be held in special wings along with baby killers

and sex offenders. Since the trial they have never laid eyes on each other.



A video image of Jamie Bulger being snatched in produce perfect answers. No- The Strand shopping centre in Liverpool



Robert Thompson (left), James Bulger (centre) and Jon Venables: The case divides Britain into two implacable and angry camps

son and Susan Venables, now

using other names, visit them

they apparently talk very little

of the murder. Neither boy has

ever spoken to his mother

Detectives who worked on

the case still consider that

Thompson was the prime

mover in the events of that day.

And one of the first lawyers to

see him, in the hours after his

arrest, is convinced that he

will never admit he killed

er. "Maybe it has been buried

member it all," he said. "He

afraid of her. I believe that he

will never admit his role while

she is still alive. With this kind

of horror bottled up inside him

I fear for his sanity when he be-

comes an adult. He was a

strange and lost little figure

who could be quite cool and

tough. But he is no psychopath

and he never showed violence

or even bad temper either be-

Thompson's coolness un

nerved the police at the time.

He remained stonily silent and

did not cry. Seasoned detectives

grew to hate him and there are

still those today who regard him

with the same loathing they re-

serve for adult sex criminals.

two families, his was the most

abusive and violent. His father,

a womaniser and a drunk,

never once came to see him and

Venables was the opposite

has not seen him to this day.

He collapsed after his arrest

and wept for days in his moth-

er's arms. And during his trial he often simply buried his face

in his hands, or played with his

necktie. His mother, Susan, is

sure that he is convinced that

he was led by Thompson and

that he played no part in the

final attack on James. She feels

that he never understood a

single word of what was hap-

pening throughout the three-

Apart from seeing each

other in court, both mothers

have never met. Both paid a

high price for their son's crime.

Attacked and vilified in the

streets within hours of the arrests, they were suddenly up-

rooted from their native city and

their friends, never to return,

Both women, according to

There is no doubt that of the

fore or since the murder."

about it in any detail.





courage and resilience. Ann Thompson, who had a bad drink problem, recovered and is now totally sober. Her other children remain with her and she has vowed she will follow her son to whatever prison he is moved to. She fully accepts that her son may be a killer but she waits and hopes that he may some day come home to her. In the early days she wrote

him a long letter, almost as if she was writing to an adult. In it, she or didn't do, I'm your mother and I will stay with you no matter what happens." Robert, ap-

and made no mention of it. Child's Play 3, was mentioned in court, and headlines screamed that it was this hor-

parently, destroyed the letter Susan Venables, too, has proved a tower of strength for her son. At the time of the killing her husband, Neil, was living apart from the family and passed the time watching rented videos. One of these,

ror story that inspired the killing. But Jon never visited his father's flat and never saw the film. It was just another of the stories that grew from nothing

The Venables family lawyers of the time recalled that such headlines almost drove her to mental collapse. "She had a husband who could not cope, who collapsed on the first day,

he said. "Her home was surrounded by a screaming mob, she was attacked and spat at in the street. But she found strength from somewhere. She is now a magnificent mother, and she supports her son in every way. But she, like Ann Thompson, is no wiser to the events of that day. He will simply not talk about it."

The two have free access to television sets and they see from their minds."

news bulletins every day. But by all accounts they have no interest in their legal affairs. If the Bulger murder is mentioned on the screen they leave the room, and, sday peo-unta-

ULL

"Somehow they have both adopted the same technique for dealing with it all," said the lawyer. "Day by day, and year by year, they have simply cut the whole thing from their minds. In the early days each one blamed the other and could give their recollections of what happened. Now it seems not to exist, and as the years go by it could even be possible that they have genuinely erased it

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Dimbleby attacks BBC 'inertia'

DAVID DIMBLEBY, one of the BY DAVID LISTER BBC's most celebrated names, Arts News Editor has criticised the corporation inertia.

The Question Time presenput-down on the Prime Minister's flirtation with "Cool Britannia". He said he had never and added: "Maybe if I snorted has lost the knack of quick ently from Sir John Birt, who out after 11pm.

for its excessive bureaucracy coke and had one hit record I would be invited."

But most of Mr Dimbleby's ter also delivered a scathing anger was aimed at his employers as he joined the former BBC chairman Lord Hussey in criticising the direction of the been invited to Downing Street corporation under its directorin all his years in broadcasting eneral Sir John Birt. The BBC

relies on endless focus groups Fd have had a subtler ear for and analysis," he said in a broadcasting."

Rodio Times interview pub.

Mr Dimbleby also believed it lished yesterday.

vance of Sir John's refirement later this year. Mr Dimbleby, 60, applied for the job in 1987 but lost to Sir Michael Checkland. He would have run the BBC differ-

decision-making because it took over in 1992, he said. "I hope

was "a mistake" for the BBC to The post of director-general chase ratings. "You don't have was advertised this week in adto sink to the lowest common chase ratings. "You don't have denominator," he said.

He particularly disagreed with the late scheduling of Question Time, saying it was "crazy" to put the programme

priv hosp face chec

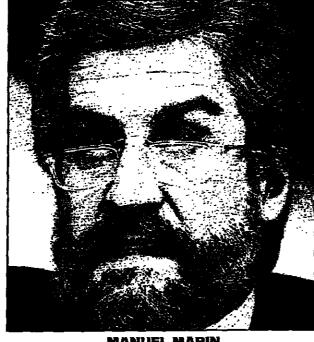
4/NEWS

EUROPE IN CRISIS - THE LEADING PLAYERS



Never the most popular of European Commissioners, Ms Cresson. 65. has been thrown to the centre stage of the cronyism row. But as a woman who made her name as France's first female premier her hallmark is toughness and she has shown no desire to quit. Still best known in Britain for casting doubt on the

sexuality of a quarter of all Englishmen, Ms Cresson's lack of tact has made matters worse in this case, too. In January, when she appeared before the European Parliament, she struck a arrogant tone and an eleventh-hour charm offensive, both in the media and among MEPs, may have been left too late.



MANUEL MARIN

The 49-year-old Spanish Socialist is one of the youngest members of the Commission and also its longest serving, having been appointed by Madrid in 1986, the year Spain joined the EU. A high achiever at any early age, Mr Marin's star has been fading ever since. A brooding, isolated and melancholic figure, he

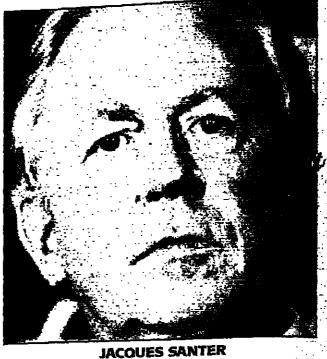
has not displayed much charisma or understanding of the demands of public relations. Irregularities relating to his office's recruitment of consultants . known as "submarines" because they were invisible are now under police investigation but Mr Marin denies any personal wrongdoing.



PAULINE GREEN

The leader of the 214strong group of socialist MEPs, Ms Green has played a crucial role in the crisis even if, by her own admission, things have not turned out as she expected. The 50-year-old MEP for London North called the censure motion, which plunged the EU into crisis in January, in the expectation

that it would be voted down. The events in January, when Parliament came closer than ever before to voting the Commission out of office, marked a decisive turning point. Ms Green now argues that, unless Jacques Santer, acts to remove anyone criticised in the report, it will be his "head on the block".



The former prime minister of Luxembourg emerged from obscurity to succeed Jacques Delors as Commission President when John Major vetoed the majority choice - Belgium's Jean-Luc Dehaene - at the Corfu summit in 1994. Apart from keeping already well-laid plans for the launch of the Euro on a

relatively even keel, Mr Santer has not come up with a single memorable initiative. An avuncular, mildmannered man known as Jacques Sancerre because he enjoys fine wines, the 62year-old President has yet to: convince MEPs that he has the clout to push through the crackdown on cronyism he promised in January.

EU fat cats shared the rich cream of patronage with their pet cronies

parked outside the European Commission's Breydel building in Brussels told its own story. It usually takes a crisis to draw all 20 Commissioners to their official workplace on a Monday, but that may be an under statement for the convulsions gripping the upper

reaches of the European Union. As the presses worked overtime churning out English and French copies of a long-awaited inquiry into cronyism, fraud and corruption in Brussels, the sense of a drama permeated the ranks. In a lift in the European Parliament, one secretary was overheard confiding that she was so excited she had been unable to sleep.

KATHERINE BUTLER

On trial are not only those Commissioners whose personal and political failings have been well documented, but the culture in which they operate. Never before has the Commission, the unelected and often arrogant executive of the EU suffered such intense scrutiny, knowing the way it responds will shape the future of Europe's institutions.

EU sorang from the work of a a two-thirds majority is worthy but dull committee of needed). At this point the Comthe European Parliament, whose task it was to examine the Union's accounts for 1996.

Threats made earlier this year that the MEPs would not approve the accounts looked lame until, on the eve of a crucial vote, the Commission circulated a "back us or sack us" ultimatum. To the shock of its cosseted members, the Commission gambled on a macho tactic and lost: the vote went the

That defeat was followed by a censure motion in Strasbourg, put down in the expectation that it would be heavily defeated. (To be successful,

The crisis convulsing the and sack all 20 Commissioners, mission made its next big error, by arrogantly suspending a whistle-blowing auditor who

leaked an extensive dossier of But it is Ms Cresson, the abrairregularities to the Greens in the European Parliament.

Paul van Buitenen's revelations were seized on as new and flagrant abuses on the part of Edith Cresson, the Education and Research Commissioner and Manuel Marin, a Vice President of the Commission. In January, MEPs came close to voting the entire Commission out of office, only pulling back hired to run the programme, when they were promised a and the boss's salary was found thorough, independent inquiry.

Mr Marin, from Spain is under attack over administration of the multi-billion pound humanitarian aid budget, "Echo", which he controlled until 1995, and a programme to help Mediterranean countries

sive former French premier, who is at the heart of of the row, facing criticism on two fronts.

The first is her administration of the Leonardo da Vinci youth training programme, the day-to-day handing of which was contracted out to a private company called Agenor. The director's wife and his future daughter-in-law were both to be around £6,000 a month.

Worse are separate neootism claims, the most damaging of which was Ms Cresson's decision to employ a dentist from her home town of Chatellerault as a scientific visitor. Rene Berthelot spent only a month working before suffering a heart attack, but stayed on the payroll, earning a total of around £60,000.

Ms Cresson denied the most serious charge, that she sought to block the recovery of money ing a byword for Brussels permanent positions. cronyism. The joke is that if you call her office, the switchboard is liable to say: "Tm sorry, Ms Cresson's line is busy. Can I put you through to her dentist?". The Cresson case has wider

mission - the institution not just wife is also an employee of the the 20 Commissioners - has Commission, as is Mr Marin's.

fallen victim to its own supreme aloofness and disregard for its public perception. From the beginning, its handling of the fraud allegations has made matters worse. Queries from MEPs and even police were brushed aside, journalists who reported the allegations were

threatened with libel writs. When it did examine its own structures, the Commission faced an uphill task to root out the type of cronyism and mismanagement now viewed as endemic. Brussels has no agreed administrative culture; what is cronyism in one country is legitimate use of patronage in another and such practises have seeped into the

hybrid Brussels bureaucracy. One of the most notorious practises in the Commission is an accepted fact of life even among the British. This is the phenomenon known as le para-Commissioners' private offices paid to Mr Berthelot for work - most of whom do not sit the never performed, but that has normal recruitment exams not stopped her name becom- are dropped into the juiciest

The Portuguese commissioner, Joao de Deus Pinheiro, sees nothing wrong with employing his brother-in-law as deputy chef de cabinet, one of the most senior positions in the significance because the Comprivate office. Mr Pinheiro's

Some Commissioners and their staff are hard working but others are not and some of those who are well-intentioned discover that their portfolios do not make up a full-time job.

Much comes down to per-

sonal inclination; according to one top official, the directorate of Martin Bangemann, the Industry Commissioner, "has done almost nothing for the last three years". Marcelino Oreja, the Spanish Commissioner has made almost no impact and a recent poll of European newspapers produced a league table of performance listing, among the bottom six, the Environment Commissioner, Ritt Bjerregaard ("as invisible as CO-"). and Christos Papoutsis, who is

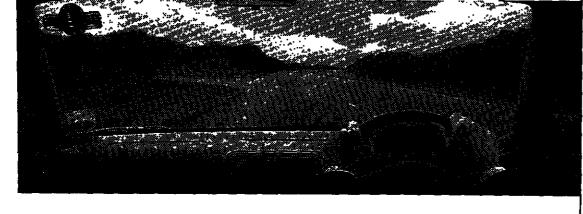
in charge of energy policy. It is, of course, an irony that its own gravy train image, vulnerable, and European electhe Cinderellas of the European

golden opportunity for revenge. Yet Ms Cresson - the clearest target - has shown a determined reluctance to quit, similar to her refusal to resign when she was prime minister sacked by François Mitterrand). She is also locked in a hitter dispute with Jacques. Santer, the European Commission President, who, she believes, is lining her up to be a scapegoat.

MEPs have been quick to up the ante, arguing that if Mr Santer does not act, his head will be on the line. The Commission President does not have the power to fire a Commissioner, but he can refer their case to the European Court of Justice which has the power to "compulsorily retire" the person in question. Mr Santer probably needs the backing of a majority of Commissioners to do that.

As they prepared for a crisis meeting last night, the stage was set for a dramatic denoueit is the Parliament, which has ment. The 20-strong college of Commissioners is not of one should have provoked such a view: there are division chatage where members of crisis. But what started as a dis- between those due to retire, and pute over a set of figures has those hoping to serve again. turned into Brussels's biggest There are personal friendshins institutional clash for years. and rivalries and there is an With the Commission looking awareness that decisions taken will set a precedent for the tions looming, MEPs, so long future. As one source put it "All 20 will sit around the table and political power game, saw a eyeball each other. That's always a tough thing to do - no matter how courageous you are as a politician.

Few doubt that, whatever the outcome, the politics of Brussels has changed for good.



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IN BRIEF

Balloonists on course for record THE ANGLO-SWISS round-the-world balloon bid yesterday entered the jet-stream over Hawaii. Brian Jones, 51, from Wiltshire, and Bertrand Piccard, 41, have now flown further than any other balloonists and will be the first to circle the globe if they reach North Africa this weekend.

Jailed art fraud ringleader appeals

THE MASTERMIND who made film from the century's biggest modern art fraud is to appeal against his six-year prison sentence. At Southwark Crown Court yesterday Judge Geoffrey Rivlin, adjourned the hearing to seize the assets of John Drewe, 50, until six weeks after the appeal.

Employee settles racism claim

A BLACK social worker who accused his employers Plymouth City Council and former employers Devon County Council of racism settled his claim amicably after a week of evidence at an industrial tribunal in Exeter Jon McKenzie, 36. of Newton Abbot, Devon, was represented by Unison.

Religious brother on sex charges A 73-YEAR-OLD religious brother appeared before Galway District Court yesterday charged with 43 counts of

indecent assault against young boys at the city's Brothers of Charity centre between 1965 and 1969. The defendant who cannot be named - was remanded on bail.

Boy, 2, survives fall from flats A TWO-YEAR-OLD boy, Dene Cumming, survived a fall of about 40 feet from a fourth-floor bedroom window in a

block of flats in Aberdeen yesterday. He suffered cuts and

Comedy writer Sid Green dies

Sid Green, co-writer of classic sketches for Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise, died yesterday in hospital in Frinton-on-sea, Essex, aged 71. He was among the most prolific writing duos of the late Fifties and Sixties.

TERENCE BLACKER



While other students found sex, I was getting up at 6.15 to ride out

Labour wants Dobson for London mayor

By Andrew Grice Political Editor

FRANK DOBSON, the Secretary of State for Health, is likely to bow to strong pressure from Tony Blair to become Labour's candidate for mayor

of London.
Although Mr Dobson has
made it clear that he does not want the job, senior sources in the Government and Labour Party said yesterday he was "wavering" and may now throw his hat into the ring.

"Tony Blair thinks Frank would be an excellent candidate," said one source. "We understand his reservations, but it is difficult to turn a job like this down when the party needs you to do your duty."

Mr Blair's allies insist be would not threaten to dismiss Mr Dobson from his cabinet post if he turned down the request to run for mayor, but would seek to persuade him to enter the race.

A former leader of Camden Council, Mr Dobson, now MP for Holborn and St Pancras, has strong London connections. The Labour leadership looks certain to veto Ken Livingstone, the left-wing MP for Brent East, breached a code of conduct for to stand as a Labour candidate.



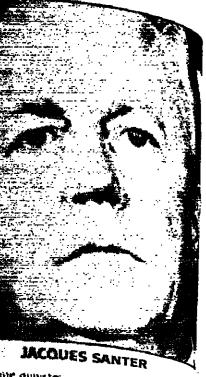
Frank Dobson: Tony Blair. is putting on pressure

candidates on campaign spending and materials. Mr Dobson is popular among London Labour Party members, and his entry into the race would placate much of the anger at the exclusion of Mr Livingstone.

Mr Dobson, who was 59 yesterday, has argued that the job should go to a younger man or woman. He has told friends be does not want to become "Mr London" because he loves his job at the Department of Health and does not want to subject his wife and three children to the intense media scrutiny that run-

ning for mayor would provoke. Trevor Phillips, the broadcaster, said on Sunday that he on the grounds that he has would run for mayor and hoped

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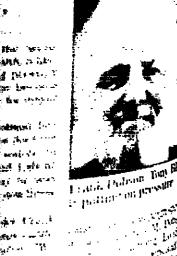
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Rodney Ledward, the surgeon accused of injuring more than

The General Medical Council can discipline individual doctors such as Mr Ledward, who was struck off last Sentember, but Ministers believe an independent watchdog is needed to carry out checks on standards of care in private hospitals and clinics. An inquiry into the Ledward

case was ordered last month by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, following mounting criticism into how Mr Ledward, was allowed to continue practising for so long without the alarm being raised. Mr Ledward operated at the

William Harvey hospital in Ashford, Kent, but he had a flourishing practice at private Bupa hospitals. Mr Dobson is consulting on the proposal for more checks on private health sector hospitals and clinics but sources close to the Secretary of State made it clear that he intends to act. Mr Dobson last night

rejected Tory demands in the House of Lords - backed by the private health operators and the British Medical Association - for NHS checks through the Government's new Commission for Health Improvement to be extended to private practice.

"The Tories are again pushing the agenda of the private health sector. We do think it needs regulating, but we don't think it's for the NHS to regulate private health care," said a ministerial source. Ministers privately said they

would not allow the commission to be used by the private sector to endorse its clinics at the

Chief Political Correspondent

taxpayers' expense. "The NHS would end up picking up the tab. We don't think that is right,"

The Department of Health is against allowing the private sector to be self regulating, and is looking at plans for a powerful body with statutory powers to investigate failure and close down persistent offenders. The private health sector and the medical profession believe it makes no sense to have a separate body to oversee the private health clinics, while the Commission for Health Improvement carries out a similar task on the NHS.

The Secretary of State's refusal to allow Tory amendments to the Government NHS Bill, which sets up the commission, will be seen as further evidence of his hostility to private health care. Mr Dobson said last year that he wanted to make the NHS so good that only "the barmy" would use the private health service.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, reinforced the message in his Budget by announcing that employees will have to pay national insurance contributions on the value of private company health scheme

Mr Dobson is ready to take private finance for NHS-run hospitals, but rejects the claim, made by the Tories, that the private health service is taking pressure off the NHS and should be encouraged.

Ann Widdecombe, the Tory spokeswoman on health, said he owed a "debt to the private sector" for pioneering the idea of health centres in shopping malls, which Mr Dobson announced yesterday he was promoting through the NHS.

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21ST MARCH

"MY BOY won the fight - and BY JOHN DAVISON you know it," railed the mothverdict of the one judge who er of Lennox Lewis to his controversially unvanquished opponent Evander Holyfield, following their world heavyweight boxing title bout in New

The scene may have brought the noble art down to the level of trailer-trash daytime TV confrontation, but few on either side of the Atlantic seemed to have any doubt that the re-

agree with her? .

gave the fight to Holyfield, Tony Banks told radio listeners: "Now we don't know why ... but quite clearly it was the wrong decision ... What fight was she actually watching?"

the British public being invited to join this "we woz robbed" debate hadn't seen any fight at all, and are unlikely to. Unless they were domestic cable or dish subscribers willing to pay between £11.95 and £16.95 for the fight, or had a friendly landlord willing and able to open to the

would be all sound and no fury.

And commentators who saw tively held the contest's casting normally back one fighter or the it in the flesh agreed with the But all the fuss seemed to eventual outcome. Not that you would think that by reading the

headlines. "STITCH-UP," screamed The Sun's front page, outlining allegations of a "CRIME OF CENTURY". Only after reading Colin Hart, the paper's boxing correspondent, was it revealed that he, too, had scored the fight as a draw. In the Daily Mail, under the headline "Robbery", the writer Jeff Pow-

ell had also "made it a draw". In New York, The Independent's Richard Williams was another to agree with Larry O'Connell, the beleaguered British judge who gave both

have had an effect on Mr O'Connell's perception yesterday, "Judged on the weight of opinion, I would say I was wrong," he conceded after arriving back at his home in Kent. "But I did what I thought was right at the time. I can't be any more honest than that". Speculation was that a re-

match was good news for the money men of the fight game, particularly Don King. But Mr O'Connell dismissed any suggestion that the fight may have been fixed as "absolute crap". Undoubted winners have

Even Ladbrokes, which gave the best odds for a draw of 40-1 and had to fork out £20,000 to

other, so the bookies have a very

good day when nobody wins.

one punter, maintained that it was still the best result for them. Turnover across Britain for the fight would have been above £1m, a spokesman said. For William Hill, a spokesman said: "We couldn't

have pre-ordained a better Brave words indeed, under

the circumstances.

Rematch ordered Leading article

Ashton hits out at police

AND SARAH SCHAEFER

THE LABOUR MP Joe Ashton, who was named as having been in a Northampton massage parlour when it was raided by police, said he was considering a complaint for the unauthorised disclosure of his identity.

Mr Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw, also said he did not "partake in or pay for any sexual services". He was named by two newspapers at the weekend as the politician found on the premises last year. In his first public statement on the allegations, he demed reports that he had refused to give his details to police as they arrested three men for sex offences.

aten

He also said he was considering whether to ask the Police Complaints Authority to investigate how his name had been leaked. The police confirmed a man was discovered during the raid on the sauna after claims that Thai women were being forced to work there against their will. A spokeswoman said a nian who was on the premises not committing any offence had refused to help police with their inquiries.

A statement by Mr Ashton

vesterday said he had decided to "put certain facts right". "The reports in the press can only have come from one source: the Northamptonshire Police ... I did not give inaccurate particulars of my name and address and the reports that I did are misleading. I did not partake in or pay for any sexual services either. I am now considering ... the implications of the publication of unauthorised information to the media and whether to ask for an investigation by the Police Complaints Authority."

Northampton police said they had no plans to investigate how information about Mr Ashton was leaked to the media and that they had received no specific complaints about the conduct of any of their staff. ■ The Government is "ab-

solutely committed" to make kerb-crawling an arrestable offence as soon as possible, the Home Office minister, Paul



Lewis rumpus leaves only the shape of the ring undisputed

doubtable dame was right.

Boxing officials ordered a rematch for the drawn fight. headlines screamed of robbery, and the British sports minister. £100m for NHS, page 8 | pitched in Commenting on the

York. And boy, didn't everyone The trouble was that most of

early hours, the argument

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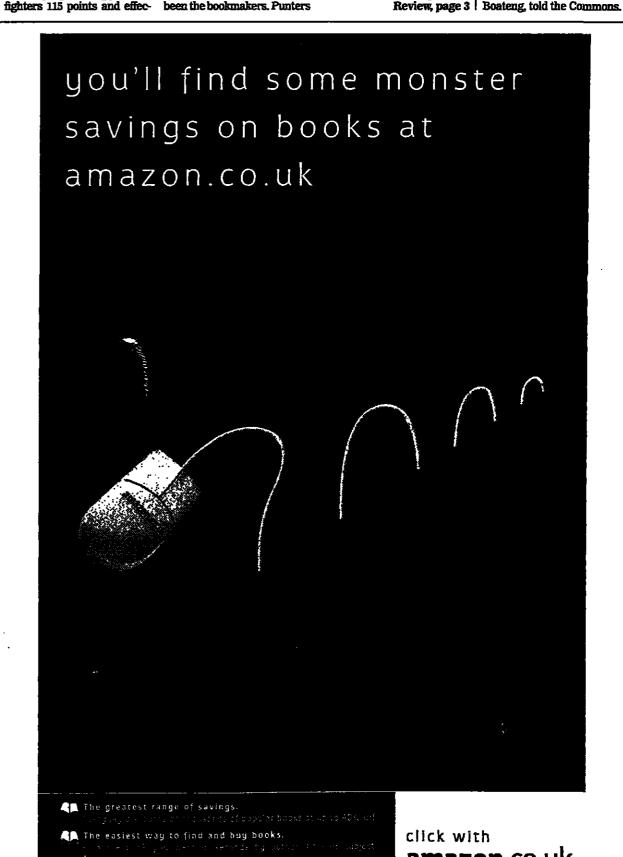
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Record number of police inquiring into charges against colleagues

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

MORE THAN 1,200 senior policemen and civilians are currently investigating an unprecedented number of allegations of corruption and wrongdoing against fellow

A survey by The independent has found that there are 800 officers in England and Wales, almost all of superintendent, inspector and sergeant ranks, working on complaints and anti-corruption inquires.

Their salaries cost an estimated £30m a year - equivalent to the pay of 1,300 police con-

The study has also revealed that a record number of police forces are being used by the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) to carry out investigations into other forces.

There are 19 ongoing PCA inquiries into serious cases that include allegations of intimidation, deaths in custody, and sexual harassment.

The Home Office and chief constables are concerned about the growing numbers of officers and resources being diverted to examine the conduct of the police rather than concentrate on fighting crime in the community. A review is being carried out to bring about savings and improvements.

One idea being examined, which has the backing of police chiefs, is a national network of independent ombudsmen attached to each force.

Until now there has been no national figure available for police personnel employed in investigating fellow officers.

The Independent contacted all 43 forces in England and Wales and obtained details of the number of people working in the complaints and discipline department and in specialist anti-corruption units.

In the handful of cases where forces refused to give details the numbers have been estimated by comparing them with similar-sized forces. Figures have also been obtained for the number of officers working on behalf of the PCA to investigate outside police forces.

The Metropolitan Police officers, and a pro-active squad.

FORCES UNDER SCRUTINY NATIONWIDE DURHAM being investigated by NORTHUMBRIA wer the death of Anthony Kellett. ver the death of Brian Hann who 36, a passenger in a car chased by fell from a roof during a police police. He died after the vehicle hi CLEVELAND being investigated by WARWICKSHIRE being investigated by GREATER MANCHESTER Eight Cleveland officers, Including Det Supt Ray Mallon, have been legations that include trading drugs for information INTERNAL INVESTIGATION CLEVELAND MERSEYSIDE Eleven police officers and two an internal inquiry into allegations DURHAM DERBYSHIRE being investigated b of fraud over the Gow over last month's shooting in the over the collapse of the trial of leg and hip of James Souster, 18. Mr Souster has been charged with two men on charges related to SOUTH YORKSHIRE in the case of Roger Sylvester, who collapsed and died in January after over the death in custody of Mr supposed to have been made safe being restrained by eight officers Satdal Singh Mal on 30 December NORFOLK **SOUTH WALES** ESSEX LINCOLNSHIRE being investigated by THAMES VALLEY over the death of Ronald Mullen MET SOUTH WALES who was found hanging in a police following allegations of wrong over the case of Christopher cells in Norwich in September last Edwards, who was battered to death at Chelmsford jail in DORSET andling of the case of three men over accusations that officers Newsagent Three the men have ha schizophrenic celimate committed perjury at an inquest their case referred to the Court of THE MET GLOUCESTER eing investigated by CAMBRIDGE being investigated by AVON AND SOMERSET wer handling of the death of ver the death in custody of Michael Menson, who died after Thomas Morrisey who was allegedly drunk and incapable north London, in January 1997 SURREY HAMPSHIRE CITY OF LONDON POLICE being investigated by THAMES VALLEY lan Beckett, the Deputy Chief Constable is being investigated for allegations of Tharassment and ETROPOLITAN POLICE

have by far the largest number with 302 officers. Of these 214 are members of the pro-active unit, CIB3, which is spearheading the Met's largest anticorruption drive for decades. So far, nearly 60 officers have been suspended or charged as a result

Merseyside Police have a 20-strong professional standards department, a confidential telephone hotline for

West Midlands Police have a similar set-up but employ 23 officers and 15 civilians in their department, and in a separate anti-corruption unit.

over handling of its investigation

into PC Graham Cruttenden, who hanged himself with a dog leash in

Several forces use specialist units for serious allegations of corruption within their own force. South Yorkshire have a team of eight investigating allegations of fraud involving the Government's handgun compensation scheme.

But even smaller forces in-

vest significant resources. For example. Norfolk's complaints and disciplinary department is staffed by a superintendent, two chief inspectors, four inspectors, two sergeants and

three civilians. The forces that refused to give any information, arguing that it was confidential, were Greater Manchester, Hertfordshire, South Yorkshire, Humberside, and West Yorkshire. In addition, the survey found

force area. The largest case involves 20 staff from Essex Police who are investigating the death of Roger Sylvester, a black man who died in January after being restrained by eight police officers in north London. A PCA spokesman said:

ployed on PCA-supervised in-

"The number of outside forces used has increased. During 1998-99 at least 25 outside

INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

corruption investigation within his own force. Nearly 60

serving and former officers have been suspended or charged

there are about 85 officers deforces will have conducted PCA supervised investigations comvestigations outside their own pared to 14 in 1995-96.

The current total of 19 live investigations is believed to be a record. Next month new measures come into force to make it

easier for chief constables to sack incompetent and corrupt

George Hedges, Chief Constable of Durham and spokesman on disciplinary issues for

the Association of Chief Police Officers, stressed that only 0.5 per cept of the complaints made to the PCA were allegations of corruption.

assault". He was suspended in

ternative but to investigate all complaints however minor. "There's a massive waste of resources going to look at com-

"At the moment there's no al-

"One idea is to have an independent legal person at-

the less serious cases. This is something we are looking at," he said. Chief Superintendent Peter

Gammon, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, added: "There's no question that disciplinary issues are an enormous expense costing millions of pounds, but you need a system that the public has confidence in and that demonstrates that wrongdotached to each force to deal with ers will not be tolerated."

Prison charity boss fired over finance allegations

A RELIGIOUS CHARITY which BY IAN BURRELL is allowed by the Prison Service to run jail wings has sacked its national director amid allegations of financial irregularities and administrative failings.

The Kairos-APAC Trust, which has units in five prisons, dismissed Kenner Jones over his methods of running the fast-expanding organisation. The sacking is an embarrassenthusiastic support because it and expenses. has helped reduce jail unrest.

The scheme puts inmates in contact with Christian volun-

Home Affairs Correspondent

Jones had a 25-year history of fraud, which includes at least 70 previous convictions. He has been jailed in Britain, Canada and the United States.

Mr Jones, 48, yesterday because of "growing concerns" denied that he had done anything wrong and said he was preparing to take the charity to an industrial tribunal for unfair ment to Prison Service chiefs dismissal. He claims he is owed who have given the project nearly £6,000 in unpaid wages

The charity's trustees have complained that Mr Jones is denying them access to papers teers and encourages them to and property in their former office, inside his home in Weyence, known as "The Journey". mouth, Dorset. Mr Jones said But The Independent he was not prepared to

trustees are to meet with Charthe charity's overdue accounts.

Yesterday John Adams, the chairman of the trustees, said he did not wish to discuss Mr Jones's dismissal because the matter was in the hands of the charity's solicitors. Mr Jones, who was last jailed

in 1996 after committing a series of frauds while a volunteer for the Liberal Democrats, became involved with Kairos whilst an inmate at Verne prison in Dorset. After his release, he swiftly became its national director.

The trustees justified the dismissal of Mr Jones with a list of eight accusations. They include failing to report funding revealed in January that Mr relinquish the files until the dis- deficits, appointing staff with-

pute is resolved. Next week, the out authority failing to forward correspondence from the Charity Commissioners to discuss ity Commission and "glossing over" financial details. Although he was not supposed to have direct access to the charity's cash, Mr Jones is also accused of "payment of monies

from Trust funds to another as-

sociation without authority". Mr Jones said yesterday that this was a reference to a decision to give "a couple of hundred pounds" to help prisoners at Verne buy equipment for a school for the blind in Exeter. He said the payment was agreed by colleagues who had signed the cheque. He said he was anxious to resolve the dispute without damaging the work of the charity. "My priority is to make sure the project



Kenner Jones: Dismissed amid 'growing concerns'

Mr Jones's solicitor, Heather Cowan, said her client was an "extremely dedicated man" who had issued the trustees with a detailed written rebuttal of the accusations that have been levelled against him.

The Prison Service said yesterday: "We recognise that the involvement of Kairos in prisons does appear to bring some benefit to the day-to-day run-nings of the prisons where it is [in place]. But we continue to monitor it closely."

Law caught in its own offside trap

AN AUDACIOUS plan by 50 By Jonathan Foster Manchester United football supporters to infiltrate rival supporters' seating for tomorrow's big match against Milan was doomed from the outset. The fact that they were based at Greater Manchester Police headquarters sealed their fate.

The desperate officers decided to go undercover after legitimate attempts to watch the Champions' Cup quarterfinal with Internazionale were rebuffed.

They tried, without success, to get 50 seats together for the first match, at Old Trafford 12 days ago. Efforts to get seats in the United end tomorrow at the San Siro stadium encountered the same problem.

So the police officers, including riot and siege veterans,

contacted Inter with an "anychance of 50 tickets money-upfront" offer. The Italians promptly informed their senior officers back at Chester House.

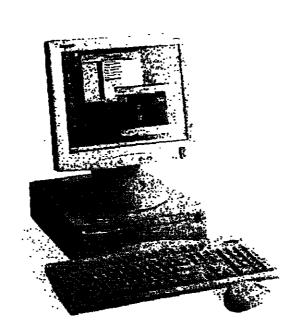
"As soon as we received the information, the application was withdrawn," a police spokeswoman said. This is hardly surprising, since Greater Manchester Police has insisted on strict segregation of United and Inter supporters - off-duty po-

Uefa, European football's governing body, stopped the sale to British tour operators of tickets in sections of the stadium earmarked for Inter supporters, and security fears have been heightened by circulation of up to 6,000 forgeries.

officers planned to go incognito to Milan is unclear Police social club sources speak of 50 "genuine" Armani sweat shirts bought from a snout in a Swinton pub, plus rigorous practice of San Siro vernacular - "Torto. di bistecca e patate e brodo di 🎜 manzo, per favore carissima ("meat and tatty pie and a Bovril, please darling").

"This wasn't an appropriate activity for Greater Manchester Police," the spokeswoman said. "But it is not seen as a disciplinary matter. We should emphasise that there was no official request for tickets by Greater Manchester Police - an individual acted on their own initiative to try to obtain tickets on behalf of the social club."

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Contract of the

uiring Suhartos sell boltholes in UK for £11m

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE EXTENDED family of Haji Mohamed Suharto, the former Indonesian president, is selling £11m worth of London property - lavish real estate that bears testimony to the extravagant lifestyle they enjoyed.

The decision may stem from the fact that in Jakarta, the indonesian capital, an investiga tion is under way into how the Suhartos made their fortime and, as a result, Britain is refusing visas to many family members.

Denied the free access to London they once enjoyed, the Suhartos have put three propThe tales of their exploits are erties in expensive areas of the capital up for sale.

One north London property an eight-bedroom detached house with banqueting rooms and marble floors in Winnington Road, Hampstead Garden Suburb - is on the market for £8m, the price having been reduced from £9.5m. Another house nearby, being sold for £1.95m, was used by the familv servants.

The family is also believed to own another three properties in London and the Home Coun-



The sales mark the end of an extravagant lifestyle

ties, though it is not clear if they intend selling them. The sales signal the end of a bizarre association between the Subarto family and London. For two decades they used it as

legion. To those in favour, the Suhartos were generous hosts. An Indonesian student who went to parties at one of the properties in Winnington Road thrown by Suharto's grand-daughter, Eno Sigit, said: "It is certainly a huxurious place. It is not what most of us are used to but that is the thing with Eno she is not like the rest of us."

Indeed she was not. While she was a fashion student at the American College in central London, to which she travelled each day by chauffeur-driven

Rolls-Royce, her father, Sigit Harjojudanto, threw her a party at the Hilton Hotel. The bill came to a reported £150,000. Whatever she wanted, she could have," said another acquaintance. "Change your mobile phone. Change it twice a day! Just because you don't like the style or the colour."

Another home in Winnington Road is in the name of Mr Harjojudanto's wife, Ilsje Ratnawati, but is used almost exclusively by the family's friends and retainers.

Such luxury might seem excessive but that was the way the family lived. "Imagine you're one of the London cronies," said another acquaintance, also preferring to remain anonymous. "Not the first level - one of the children or grandchildren - not even the second level, but just one of the third layer: close to the family, but not that close. Even those people live in luxurv - a flat in Lowndes Place. a big car, seven bedrooms. As for the family themselves, they lived like sheikhs. They spent money like water."

A visitor to another of the properties said: "You could only use about two of the rooms. The





89 Winnington Road. Suharto parties were held in its banqueting rooms

rest were filled with boxes, went gambling at the Ritz Casino with Suharto's eldest son, shopping bags from Selfridges

which had been there for years. Tommy said: "[One night] he They've bought them and never dropped more than £1m withgot round to opening them. out even giving it a thought. and they've forgotten what's in-Then we went to dinner. side. It's scary." A friend who



38a Putney Hill. £1.4m home of Suharto's £1.95m - used by the Subarto half-brother

Suharto's half-brother Probo- the property for 16 years, has

suteio is selling Norfolk House, put it on the market for £1.4m. a detached three-storey home The denial of visas to famiwith four reception rooms, a billy members follows a decision by Britain last year to refuse liards room and servants' quarters on the upper floor. Mr entry to Suharto's son-in-law. Across London, in Putney, Probosutejo, who has owned Prabowo Subianto, disgraced

former head of the indonesian special forces. While the corruption investigation hunched by President BJ Habible, who replaced Suharto last year, is unlikely to touch him, the fainily is taking it seriously. None of the members was at the London properties vesterally

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Last night the Tapel In donesian human-rights group urged Britain to freeze the Subartos' assets, estimated at billions of pounds.

A spokesman, Itali Bariser, said: "It is clear the family are selling their properties in Landon so that the proceeds can be hidden away. The demands of the Indonesian people that the family and cronies account for their wealth and human ments crimes have not been satisfied."



centre of allegations over Islamist terrorism operating from Britain was last night being questioned by anti-terrorist squad officers. Sheikh Abu Hamza was ar-

Terrorism Act early yesterday or seeking an extension. morning at his home in west

London. He and two other men arrested at different addresses were taken to Charing Cross police station in central London. Police can question the men for rested under the Prevention of 48 hours without charging them

Mr Hamza, 40, was at the

centre of controversy earlier this year over allegations that terrorists were operating out of London. His group, Supporters of Shariah, which is based in a north London mosque, had said it supported armed action.

In particular Mr Hamza, who was born in Alexandria, spoke to the head of the gang denied any knowledge of such has had his name linked to an

alleged plot to blow up various targets in Yemen. One of five men currently being tried for conspiring to cause explosions in Yemen is Mr Hamza's stepson, while his son has been arrested on similar charges.

Mr Hamza admitted he who seized a dozen Western a plot. He has persistently

tourists – three of whom were later killed - on the day of the ment of spreading propaganda kidnapping last December. Since the arrest of his family

members, the one-eyed cleric who said he lost both his arms lawvers. while fighting with the muiahedin in Afghanistan, has

and obtaining confession through torture, an allegation supported by the five men's

Last night Mr Hamza's supporters said he had been arrested along with two other Egyptians. They named one as activities here."

Yasir As-Sirtie, also known as Abu Ammar, head of the Islanuc Observatory Centre in London. A spokesman for the Supporters of Shariah, Haroon Rashid,

said: "He [Mr Hamza] has only been arrested for questioning involving terrorist activities here. He has done no terrorist



Members are all talk when it comes to the big question

THE ROUSE of Commons can be a will have touched on the weekend's this naturally offered a distant depressingly decorous place sometimes. This isn't the received opinion, of course, which tends to tut piously over the raucous breaches in courtesy which, all too rarely, demonstrate that someone has acpoint of principle.

ably don't - and this is never truer than when word has gone round that an MP appears to have been caught misbehaving outside the

exciting revelation that a Labour MP had been found on the premises when the police raided a Thai massage pariour

Certainly journalists were talking about it and while I don't wish tually become agitated about a to libel elected representatives, oint of principle. than whom no higher-minded body
But when you really hope MPs of people exist, I think it is fair to will misbehave they almost invari- say that the odd member might had to review the law on kerb have mentioned it - plus most of the even ones as well.

For journalists facing the prospect of Jack Straw answering questions about the public infor-Yesterday for example, many of mation campaign on the voting the conversations in the corridors system for the European elections,

shimmer of hope. Crawling across the burning sands of employment statistics for West Mercia police force for the year 1998 to 1999, we were heartened by the sight of palm trees far away on the horizon.

If we could just make it to Question 11, an inquiry from Jenny Jones about what plans Mr Straw crawling, surely the innuendodrought would break.

Someone would make a sly joke and we could plunge gratefully into the mud-hole, cackling hysterically as we slaked our thirsts. Not a bit of it. The question could hardly have THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

been more pertinent, really. Ms jones wished to raise the anomalies in the existing laws on

prostitution, which apparently said The sentiments were unimmake kerb-crawling an offence though not yet an arrestable one. She was also concerned to shift the full weight of the law off prostitutes' shoulders and onto those of their male exploiters, both pimp and

This was the right moment to do it but even so she may have regretted that the ballot had put her question so far up the order paper. Paul Boateng took a different

tack, halting his vehicle and decorating the outside with outraged banners: the Government would be considering how best to deal with "those who ply this evil trade," he

peachable and the Victorian high style rather pertinent, since he was talking about child prostitution, but Mr Boateng's moral indignation is too opportunistic to be entirely convincing anymore. Tyres squealing, he too headed off for a more respeciable neighbourhood. Tory MPs, perhaps aware that once mud starts getting thrown there's no knowing who might get

There was still a faint hope of executive relief - as luck would have it the MP for Northampton North, Sally Keeble, also had a question on

splashed, sat uncharacteristically

the order paper. She wanted to know what steps Mr Straw was taking to reduce crime in shopping centres, to which one obvious answer might be that her local police force could spend less time in local massage parlours and more time patrolling the streets. There was a rather sarcastic "hear, hear" from Nicholas Soames when Mr Boateng finished his scrupulously bland response, but not a hint otherwise that most members were trying to keep a straight face.

They had all opted for what you might call the Fawity gambit whatever you do, don't mention

MPs tell Blair to accept cut in EU rebate

TONY BLAIR'S campaign to save the £2bn-a-year rebate on Britain's payments to the European Union was undermined last night when a parliamentary committee urged him to surrender the refund.

Today he will come under more pressure to accept a cut in the rebate, won by Margaret Thatcher in 1984, when he meets Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, for talks on the EU budget at Downing Street. Privately, ministers admit Britain may have to give some ground to secure agreement on reform of EU finances at a summit of leaders in Berlin

But Downing Street reiterated last night that the rebate was not negotiable.

The report by the Labourdominated House of Lords committee on Europe warned Mr Blair that his determination to keep the rebate could wreck plans to reform the much-criticised common agricultural policy (CAP) and to allow Eastern European countries to join the EU. The peers admitted that Britain had a problem over its high contributions to EU cof- options" but insisted that sent financing system."

The Scottish Widows European PEP.

Unit Trust

Scottish Widows European

BY ANDREW GRICE

Political Editor

fers, but said the rebate might no longer be the best way to solve it. The refund should be "negotiable" as part of a fairer

funding system. "It would be regrettable if the entire package (including CAP funding enlargement) were to be lost because the UK government insisted there was only one way of solving its problem," said the report.

"Equipping the EU to handle enlargement is a very big prize; we urge the Government not to throw it away."

As a compromise, the committee proposed that Britain give up the rebate on condition that the loss be recouped through savings from a reformed CAP, a freeze on EU spending by 2006 and possibly by higher EU spending in this

Patricia Hewitt, the Treasury Economic Secretary, told the committee the Government was "prepared to look at other achieved even under the pre-

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Britain could not help other countries by worsening its own problems

Downing Street said there were "bigger questions" to be discussed than the rebate at today's talks between Mr Blair and Mr Schröder.

But their common relief at last week's resignation by Oskar Lafontaine, the German reform and the possibility of Finance Minister, may be overshadowed by Germany's demand for the abolition of the British rebate.

Mr Blair's spokesman said he would insist the special deal was still justified. "Even with the abatement we are the fifthlargest contributor per head [to the EU] and by most accounts the 10th richest."

The Lords committee also called for much more openness over the way the EU spends its money. It said: "We are already being taxed to finance EU expenditure, yet we have virtually no knowledge of what we are paying - or what we are paying for. We call on the Government to consider without delay how this transparency can be



Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, answering questions in the Commons yesterday when he announced a £3.5m

Secret deal with GM firms denied

THE GOVERNMENT denied yesterday that it had entered into a "secret deal" with biotech firms to ban commercial planting of genetically modified technology was moving "too crops until 2001.

However, ministerial embarrassment over the issue one of the leaders in the boomdeepened when Marks & Spencer became the latest food meals, said that GM ingredients giant to announce it was removing the substance from all its own-brand products. Michael Meacher, the Envi-

deny reports that the Government had agreed a voluntary, three-year moratorium with the biotechnology industry.

Meacher's statement, M&S said that it was imposing its own ban in response to By PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

quickly".

The food and clothing chain, ing market in "cook-chill" ready would be removed from all St Michael food products "as quickly as possible". It ioins Iceland and Waitrose

ronment minister, moved to supermarket chains, both of which have stated that they will phase out GM ingredients from their own brands.

Both Mr Meacher and But within hours of Mr Downing Street dismissed speculation that civil servants had drawn up a deal with the companies at the centre of GM research such as Monsanto,

rent agreement with the biotech firms will run out in spring 2000, but added that it could be extended if there was insufficient evidence to back safe commercial planting. Regulating the commercial production of GM food will cost the taxpayer £5m this year, including £3.7m on research, the Agriculture minister Lord Do-

Novartis and Zeneca, Mr Meacher insisted that the Government had not changed the terms of the current two-year voluntary ban on commercial planting that was negotiated with the firms last October.

He confirmed that the cur-

noughue disclosed. He added that 74 people were working on policy development, research roads and that the haulage in-

On your bike, say Tories to pupils

BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT should encourage more children to waik or cycle to school instead of penalising their parents with high car taxes, the Conservatives urged yesterday.

Gillian Shephard, the shadow Environment and Transport Secretary, called for a comprehensive review of the 1944 Education Act to create workable alternatives to the "school run". Parents could be persuaded to stop ferrying their children to school by car only if they were certain that the alternatives were safe, she said.

Unveiling her party's Trans-port Policy Forum in the House of Commons, Mrs Shephard claimed that urgent action was needed because the school run added up to 20 per cent to rush-hour traffic jams. However, the solution was not to impose taxes that would hit the poorest parents hardest but, instead to hand over transport funds from local councils to individual schools.

Among the ideas under consideration by the Conservatives are more dedicated cycle lanes to boost dramatically the numbers of children who get to school under their own steam.

Another major initiative would involve more "crocodile" walking schemes to allow primary pupils to be picked up at home and escorted to school by

Bernard Jenkin, the Conservatives' transport spokesman, said that the 1944 Education Act meant that local council provision of school transport was arbitrary and unfair. "The way pupils travel to school has changed dramatically over the last 50 years and yet the statutory framework remains the outdated Act. Most pupils used to walk or cycle to school," he said.

"Most parents, particularly working women, prefer to drive their children to school and we believe that they should be allowed that choice.

"But we want to give them a real choice in home-to-school transport. We want every school to be able to develop a green transport plan that offers safe, reliable and convenient alternatives to the car" The Conservatives claimed the Budget would tax motorists off the co-ordination and regulatory dustry was set to lose 50,000 functions related to GM food. jobs because of hikes in duties.

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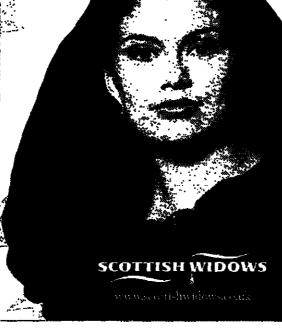
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'Deport Faved' HARRODS' OWNER

Mohamed Al Fayed should be deported rather than given a British passport, Gerald Howarth, the Tory MP for Aldershot, urged. Mr Al Fayed's brother Ali Fayed was given approval to obtain a British passport last week. Applications by the brothers were rejected in 1995.

Today's agenda Commons: 2.30pm

Foreign Office questions. House of Lords Bill Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 (Continuance) Order. Lords: 2.30pm Access to Justice Bill third reading. Debate on tourism strategy.

Extra £100m given to ease casualty waiting time

FRANK DOBSON, the Secretary HEALTH of State for Health, yesterday pledged to end the scandal of National Health Service patients waiting for hours on hospital trolleys, announcing an extra £100m to modernise accident and emergency departments.

In a Commons statement, Mr Dobson, said the money would be spent on upgrading casualty departments, making them more "pleasant and more £150m from the National Lottery's New Opportunities Fund would go on replacement equip- nouncements".

BY SARAH SCHAEFER Political Reporter

ment to fight cancer, he said. However, none of the money will be spent on extra staff. Much of the £430m from last week's Budget will instead be spent on admissions wards so patients needing treatment can be moved quickly out of casualty.

Ann Widdecombe, the Tory secure" by next April Another health spokeswoman, described the initiative as "old money recycled as new an-

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Cost of explaining voting system A TOTAL of £3.5 million of taxpayers' money will be spent on publicity explaining the closed lists system of proportional representation for June's European

Passports for pets 'coming soon'

elections, Home Secretary Jack Straw announced.

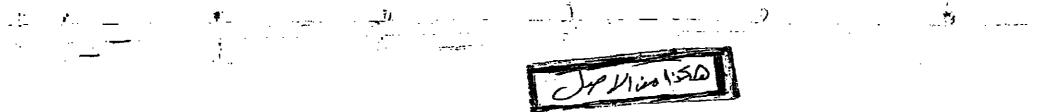
THE ANIMAL quarantine regulations will be replaced "as soon as possible", with the "passports for pets" scheme. junior agriculture minister Lord Donoughue promised.

Mr Dobson also confirmed that up to £30m would be spent on improving direct access to the NHS, including pilot schemes for "walk-in" GP practice services in shopping malls. The Government was defeated in the Lords over its plans to scrap GP fundholding and replace it with a new system of primary care trusts.

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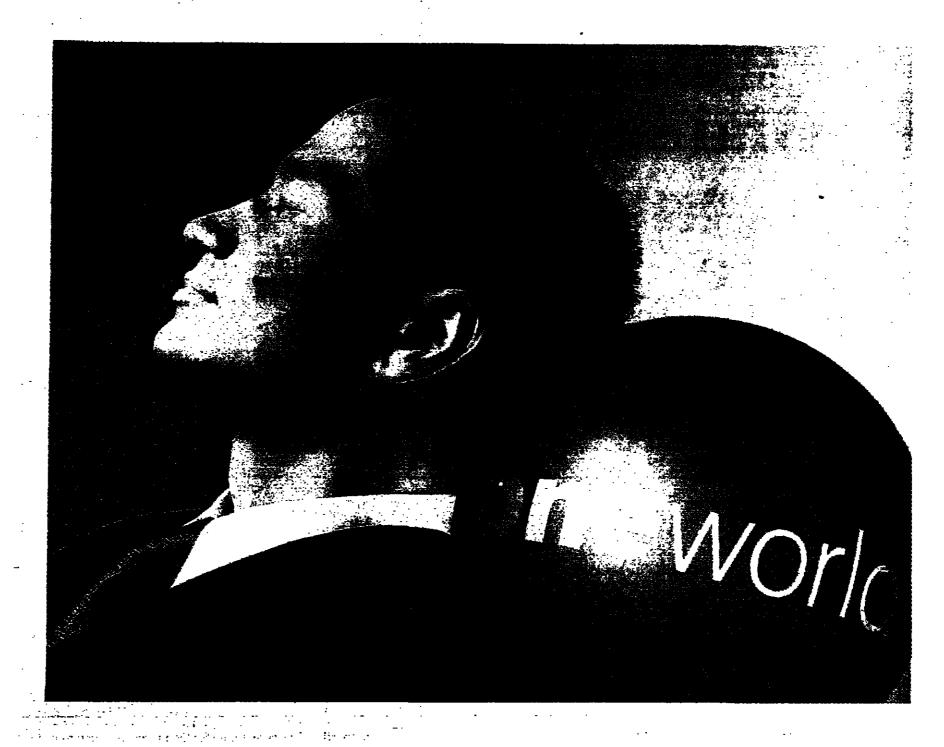
On your bike, say Tories to pupils

TRANSPORT By Pall Wallet Pointeal Corresponden

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Jews were 'mown down', trial told

A CHILDHOOD friend of the BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE defendant in Britain's first war crimes trial yesterday recalled how he watched Anthony Sawoniuk "mow down" 15 Jewish women with a machine gun in a remote forest clearing.

Fedor Zan told the Old Bailey that Mr Sawoniuk had first ordered the women to strip to their underwear and stand in

front of pre-dug graves.
"I hid myself in the bushes and observed what happened. He had a sub-machine gun," said Mr Zan. "They turned to face the pit as ordered."

Mr Zan then imitated the action of someone shooting with a machine gun. "Once that happened I looked round and they had gone. The women fell into the hole."

Mr Sawoniuk, 78, is alleged to have murdered up to 20 Jews while serving as a policeman in Domachevo in Nazioccupied Belarus between 1941 plight by the sound of crying as

and 1944. The former British Rail ticket collector who lives in south London is alleged to have organised "search and kill" operations to track down Jews who had escaped a Nazi massacre in the town in September 1942 in which 2,900 Jews were murdered in one day. Mr Sawoniuk denies all the

Mr Zan, 76, had told the court that he had known Mr Sawoniuk while they were both schoolboys in Domachevo. He said he was able to recognise Mr Sawoniuk as the gunman because he was well-known in the community. "He was fa-mous by that time," he said.

Mr Zan, who acted as a guide for the jury when they travelled to Belarus to visit the scene of the alleged killings, said he had been alerted to the women's

"When I heard the cries, I walked to see where they were coming from," he said. "They had taken their

clothes off and were asked to put them in a pile. They were then asked to turn round and face the pit.

"He mowed them down with a machine gun. There were not less than 15 Jewish women."

On a previous occasion, he said he had witnessed his aunt and her family being led from the local police station to their execution. The court heard earlier that they were suspected of associating with anti-Nazi par-

"I was taking food to the police station for them. I saw them tied up being led through the Jewish ghetto to the sandhills," said Mr Zan

"They were tied in a row -

and my two cousins were at the back. Sawoniuk and another policeman were escorting them. Sawoniuk was carrying a submachine gun. The second policeman was carrying a carbine. Once they had passed through the gates of the ghetto, I did not

see them again." The trial jury was yesterday reduced to 11 members after a woman juror fell ill and was taken to hospital at the week-

about her and found she would have to remain in hospital for another week, Mr Justice Potts decided to discharge her.

He warned the remaining members of the jury not to contact the woman in hospital although it was "highly understandable" that they might want to after sitting for nearly five weeks together.



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Strike halts all Channel traffic

HOLIDAYMAKERS AND Truck BY PHILIP THORNTON drivers face the threat of disruption throughout the summer as French transport workers blockaded Channel ports yesterday in protest at EU plans to scrap duty-free shopping.

More than 1,200 strikers paralysed ferry services between Dover and Calais and halted train services through the Channel Tunnel.

Workers on ferries linking Brittany with the UK blockaded a motorway junction in Rennes, and the departure of a ferry from Caen for Portsmouth

the holiday season. Transport unions say the end of duty-free would destroy 3,000 jobs in the Calais region, 15,000 in France and 140,000 across the EU. Brenda O'Brien, assistant

general secretary of the EU Federation of Transport Work-

a very big possibility that there ation spokesman Geoff Doswill be more disruptive action." British time and finished at down on the strikers. 2pm. P&O Stena, the ferry op-

AND LINUS GREGORIADIS

erator, cancelled 14 sailings between 6am and 12.15pm. Eurotunnel said all passenger

trains were cancelled between 10am and 1.30pm. Freight trains ran despite the strike but no lorries were allowed through until a blockade in Calais was lifted. Keith Southey, of the Dover Harbour Board, said: "It was a much quieter day than usual.

Customers have obviously heeded the warning that they would be unable to sail to Calais. Despite the warnings, some The strike prompted fears of day-trippers had their outings industrial unrest throughout ruined Jim Anslow, 59, from South Wales, said he was disappointed by the delays but

sympathised with strikers. "We are talking about thousands of people who will be put out of work all over Europe. Hauliers said the strike would cost the industry £1m. ers' Unions, said: "I think it is The Freight Transport Associ-

setter urged ministers to put The strike began at 8am pressure on France to crack Eurotunnel profits, page 17

ANDREW MARSHALL



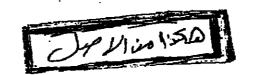
The creators of Bluewater know best, for the key to world history is shopping

THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 5

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'I trusted the hospital and my baby died'

By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE mother of a baby who died after heart surgery seven years ago will tell a panel of two men and two women today why the experience has destroyed her trust in doctors. Tracey Clarke, 36, will be the

first witness to give evidence to the Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry, which is set to be the longest and most emotionally harrowing investigation into a medical disaster. Graham and Tracey

Clarke's daughter Melissa was one of hundreds of children who underwent complex heart surgery at the infirmary between 1984 and 1995, the period under investigation. She was 11 months old when she was operated on in October 1991 and died 10 days later Her surgeon was Janardan

Dhasmana, one of three docdead on a ventilator for two or tors found guilty of serious three days before she was told professional misconduct by the General Medical Council last year. It concluded that the three doctors - Mr Dhasmana, James Wisheart and John Roylance, who was the hospital's chief executive - had ignored warnings from colleagues and allowed the operations to continue for too long when they us to Dhasmana, despite know-



Melissa Clarke: Died 10 days after heart surgery

should have known that their death rates were too high. Mrs Clarke, from Tiverton, Devon, said in an interview last year that the details of her baby's operation had been kept from her, that the success rate had been exaggerated and that Melissa had been brain-stem

there was no hope for her. "There are so many questions that we want answered." she said. "This is why we need a public inquiry. It is more than the actions of the three doctors that need looking into. What about the other doctors who saw Melissa and referred

ing what was going on? What about the nurses and other staff who said nothing?" For six years the Clarkes be-

fieved that Melissa had had an arterial switch operation, in which the blood vessels supplying the heart - which have been transposed at birth must be "switched" back again. Last year's GMC inquiry looked at two types of operation, the switch and hole in the heart surgery, and involved 53 babies, of whom 29 died and four were brain damaged. It was only when the Clarkes were told they had been excluded from the GMC inquiry that they learnt their daughter had had a different operation. called a Senning, which, had she lived, would have necessitated further surgery in her

The Clarkes believe that both pre- and post-operative care may have contributed to Melissa's death. They say Mr Dhasmana told them the operation had a 90 per cent chance of success, and that, even after complications had set in, she had a 70 per cent chance. "I put her life in their hands. I put my complete and utter trust in that hospital. I will never trust a hospital or a doctor again," said Mrs Clarke.



The GMC investigation was they worked, other staff, the law and ethics at University limited to a narrow range of operations, where the evidence was strongest, and focused on the doctors. The public inquiry will broaden the focus to include the institution in which

Royal Medical Colleges and the Department of Health, all of which are accused of failing to act to protect patients.

The inquiry, chaired by Ian

College London, is expected to hear evidence from about a dozen parents during its first two weeks. Later it will consider evidence from the doctors Kennedy, professor of health and other staff. Hearings are

expected to continue in Bristol

until the end of the year and will be followed by a series of seminars elsewhere. The inquiry report is likely

to be published in mid to late

Murdoch drops plan to ambush 'Mail' freesheet

ny more than £1.5m a year. It rep-

his father's death last year.

to spike the launch of London's first new newspaper for more than a decade appeared yes-

Rupert Murdoch's east London-based corporation is bea daily capital-wide freesheet in competition with London Metro, a new giveaway launched today News International (NI) had

PLANS BY News International By RHYS WILLIAMS

been considering reviving its dormant Today title for a free terday to have been put on ice. paper that would have not only undermined Metro's launch but also attacked the advertislieved to have delayed plans for ing underbelly of the Evening Standard, Associated's principal London title. The project would have cost at least £15m, money which NI executives in the end felt would be better

spent on beefing up The Sun and News of the World. This decision means that a

repeat of the newspaper war which followed the last new title launch in London 12 years ago now looks unlikely. London Metro, Associated's first newspaper launch for 17

resents the first real test of the pairing of Paul Dacre, editor in chief of Associated Newspapers, and the new Lord Rothermere Jonathan Harmsworth, who took over as chairman following

The desire for the project to years, will be distributed from succeed at all costs became bins on the London Underclear last month when Metro's ground in a 10-year deal that first editor, Kim Chapman, was forced to step down. Mr Dacre could net the transport compa-

claimed her dummy editions
were not sufficiently sophistision of GMTV - celebrity-heavy, cated for the relatively young (under 35), affluent commuters of the target readership.

Mr Dacre has since drafted in some of his most trusted lieutenants from the Doilu Moil. Ian MacGregor, the Moil's associate editor (news), has taken over as editor, while Alastair Sinclair, deputy editor of the Mail, moved across for several weeks. middle market and glamorous. The paper will be available in

72 underground stations. As distribution broadens to 261 stations, the print run will expand from its initial 100,000 to 300,000. the figure Associated hopes will bring in £13m in advertising revenue, and a profit.

Associated's primary motive is defensive. It has decided to

produce a daily freesheet before a rival does, taking the view that if any title is going to damage the Evening Standard, then better one of its own. Associated is hoping to minimise the impact on the Standard by steering the freesheet's news content away from a strong London agenda and by ensuring that while the Standard's early editions are on

sale from 9am, Metro is not

Credit cards to get chips

By Charles Arthur Technology Editor

A NEW generation of credit and debit cards with built-in chips will replace the 100 million "black stripe" cards over the next three years, in a £303m project to tackle fraud.

Eventually the cards could be so closely tied to their owners that only the correct fingerprint, signature or iris details would make them work - making fraud by mechanical means almost impossible.

From next month, the major banks and credit cards will begin issuing "smart cards" containing their own processor chip and memory able to store the equivalent of 1,300 words of text. Though their processing power is comparable with the computers of the 1970s, each will cost the banks just £1.

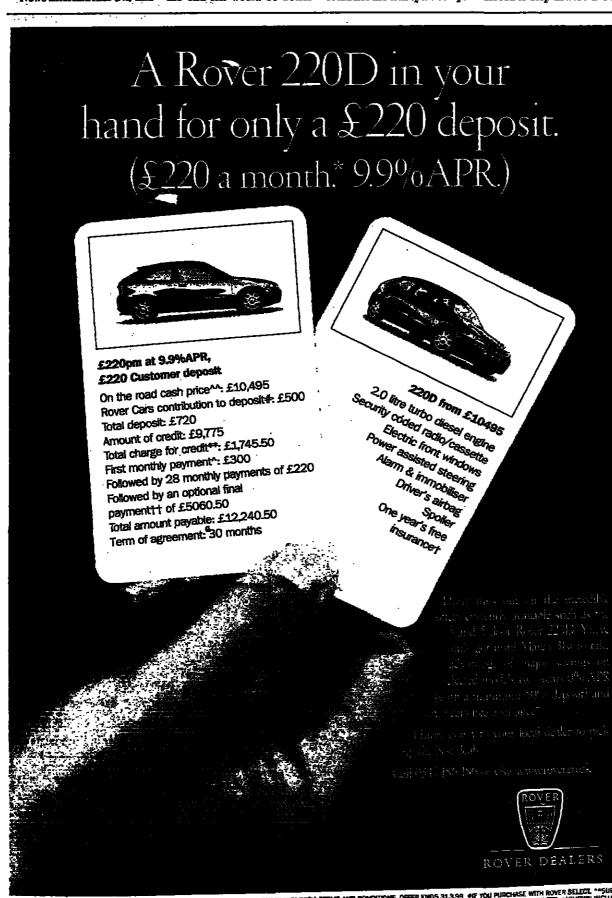
Initially they will simply hold a PIN, or pass number, with the cardholder's account number, but the Association for Payment Clearing Services (Apacs). which is overseeing distribution, is considering putting "biometric" details on the cards.

The new cards are expected to bring a rapid reduction in fraud, which in 1997 cost £177m and would rise to £304m by 2002 if the technology was not introduced, according to OSI, an independent management consulting company.

John Bragg, director of OSI, said: "Banks and retailers should move in tandem to convert to the chip cards. They could halve the fraud rate in five years if they moved quickly." Richard Tyson-Davies, a

spokesman for Apacs, said: Cutting fraud is the principal reason for introducing the cards, but they could also be used for electronic commerce. loyalty schemes, and electronic purses where the cards actually hold cash in electronic form." Visa International is presently holding trials with such a system.

Currently most credit card fraud involves "skimming", in which copies of cards are made using the data from the magnetic stripe. Because the card is new, the signature can be that







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Albanians sign and call Serbian bluff

IN THE first big breakthrough at the Kosovo peace talks, the ethnic Albanian delegation yesterday agreed to sign the deal drawn up by international mediators - thus confronting President Slobodan Milosevic with the threat of Nato air

In a letter to the French and British co-chairmen at the start of the second round of negotiations in Paris, Hashim Thaqi, head of the Albanian delegation, said the peace plan "offers a chance and a perspective for Kosovo and its people". He made no mention of the earlier Albanian insistence on a guarantee of ultimate independence

for the Serbian-ruled province. As fierce fighting continued in northern Kosovo, the Albanian move was welcomed in the West, President Bill Clinton declared himself "very, very pleased" and warned that if Mr

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

icate, the allies would have "little option" but to bomb Yugoslav military targets.

According to the French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, chairing the conference with strikes if he does not follow suit. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, Yugoslavia "has its back against the wall". The choice for Belgrade, he said, was between isolation and peace.

> For the moment, the Serbs seem to have chosen the former "What agreement? Such an agreement doesn't exist," responded Milan Milutinovic, the Serbian President, to the Albanian decision.

He left open the possibility that Belgrade might go along with the political part of the proposals, granting Kosovo wide autonomy for a three-year transitional period. But, Mr Miluti-

The stage is set for a showand the West. Will he bow bethe combination of partial consolve will let him cling to Kosovo yet avoid bombing?

The answer should come relatively quickly. Armed with the Albanian endorsement of the deal, which could be translated into formal signature today, British diplomats indicated they expected the conference to be wrapped up, one way or another, this week.

None of the Contact group Britain, France, the United States, Germany, Italy and Russia - is ready to tolerate a repeat of last month's exercise at Rambouillet, where 17 days of negotiation yielded a draft agreement signed by no one.

divisions are only too evident. Washington remains keen on down between Mr Milosevic bombing, but even its most loyal European ally, Britain, fore the threat of air strikes? Or has misgivings. France and will he hold out, confident that I taly will take even more convincing, while Russia is cessions and lack of Western re- adamantly opposed to strikes against its traditional fellow-

lavs and Orthodox Christians. If Mr Milosevic signs up to the political agreement but quibbles over the make-up of an international force, bombing would be even more problematic. But after so many threats, for Nato to back down at that stage would play havoc with the credibility of the alliance.

Meanwhile the Yugoslav army announced last night that obligatory military service of one year would be extended by a month, due to increased international pressure on the country "and the threat of mil-



Two ethnic Albanian women comfort each other as they mourn four relatives killed in the village of Grajkovac, 60km north-west of Pristina. northern Kosova. vesterday 60km north-west of Pristina, northern Kosovo, yesterday

Five villages ablaze in new shelling

SERB SECURITY forces poured BY EMMA DALY rocket and mortar fire on to suspected rebel positions in northern Kosovo yesterday, as the two sides sat down to peace talks in Paris.

Smoke rose from burning houses in at least five villages in the eastern foothills of main road between Pristina, Kosovo's capital, and the town of Mitrovica. Exhausted rebels gathered in the village of Ljubovac to rest and re-group as the fire boomed around them.

The crash of incoming shells rang out, and puffs of black smoke marked the impacts mercifully short of the village, at least until late afternoon, when one house was hit and began to burn, sending a column of thick smoke wafting above the ridge line.

Most civilians have already left the area, since the Yugoslav army and police forces began ssaulting the rebel-held village of Osljan. A few stalwarts remained to protect their houses and livestock - or because they had no choice.

Ibrahim Zymeri was sheltering in the garage below his house in Dubovac, near Osljan, where one shell had landed harmlessly in a straw-pile. "We escaped every other time when there was shelling, but today it was so sudden that we stayed it is too dangerous to leave," Mr Zymeri said, as artillery rumbled in the distance.

"We still have a unit in Osljan, doing shifts," said Enver, the local KLA brigade commander, who was nursing a in Ljubovac

nel wound. "They tried to attack this way, but they took a lot of victims on their side.

However, the KLA has also suffered losses, including Bislime. As the sun set, the local Cicavica mountain, west of the hozho said a few short prayers over the body of Bislime and his closest friends set the coffin to rest in the thick, cloving earth of Drenica, the KLA stronghold that could be threatened if the Yugoslav army succeeds in pushing the KLA off the Cicavica mountains.

"I hope this is going to be the last dead soldier." said Gani, a military policeman standing by the freshly-dug grave. "All the fighters are our friends, even if we don't know them," he said.

But Ramadan, another soldier, was sceptical. "How can be be the last one buried when they are shelling over there?" end of some of the worst violence in the year-long conflict has risen to at least 22, including eight people killed in bomb blasts and four ethnic Albanian woodcutters shot dead near Suva Reka on Sunday.

An official with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe monitors said they were encountering in-creased hostility from both sides. "Last week somebody fired on one of our cars. The bullets came from Yugoslav army positions." the official said.

"Yesterday the KLA checked the documents of one of our teams to see if there were any Russians among them. They handaged left hand - a shrap- said they don't like Russians.

UN helicopter missing with 13 on board

A SEARCH was under way in BY DAVID USBORNE the Caribbean waters around in New York Haiti yesterday for a United Nations-chartered helicopter that went missing during a flight on Sunday evening from the capital, Port-au-Prince, to Cap Haitien, the country's second

largest city.
Fred Eckhard, the United Nations spokesman in New York, said the helicopter, which had been chartered by an American company on the UN's behalf, had vanished about 20 minutes into its flight There were 13 people on board, he said. Last night there was still no information on wreckage or the fate of the

been deepening since the resignation in June 1997 of the former prime minister, Rosny Smarth. With no replacement, Haiti has suffered a paralysis of government and a subsequent drying up of foreign aid

Among the missing personnel last night were five Argen tinians who were in Haiti as UN parliament.

civilian police. Also on board the MI-8 Russian helicopter were six Russians, all thought to be members of the crew, as well as an American citizen connected with the company that had arranged the charter.

Sources said the group had originally left Port-au-Prince on board a different helicopter which had developed a fuel leak and returned to the capital. The second helicopter was reported missing about 20 minutes after its departure for Cap Haitien, in the north-west of the country.

With fears mounting that The tragedy comes at a time the aircraft may have gone when Haiti is struggling with a down in the ocean, the search political stalemate that has was being assisted last night by the United States Coast Guard

Hundreds of millions of dollars that would have flowed to Haiti from the international community have been blocked recently because of the politi-cal stand-off between President Rene Preval and the opposition parties in Haiti's



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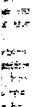


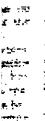
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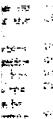
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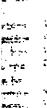
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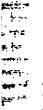


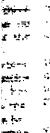




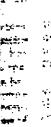


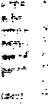


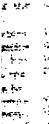
















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oners ordered into leg irons at Elkmont in Alabama were the first of such bound prisoners in the state in more than 50 years

US has 1.8 million in prison

THE UNITED STATES is head- BY ANDREW MARSHALL ing for an unenviable record, as the nation which puts more of its people behind bars than

The latest figures on US prisons show a population equivalent to that of a large city is in jail. "At mid-year 1998 the nation's prisons and jails incarcerated an estimated 1,802,496 ersons," said the survey from the US Justice Department.

"It is unique in a democratic society," said Mark Mauer of the Sentencing Project, a group which questions American

That figure represents a rate of incarceration of 668 inmates per 100,000 residents, a doubling since 1985. By contrast, in England and Wales which have one of the highest rates of incarceration in Europe the figure is around 120 per 100,000. Only Russia, at 685 per 100,000, has a higher proportion

cost of the US prison programme is about \$40bn (£25bn). The staggering increase in

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the past 20 years has come about because of mandatory minimum sentences, the policy of "three strikes and you're out", and "truth in sentencing", which mean that inmates serve

less likely to get parole. The prison population has slowed its rate of growth as the crime rate falls in the US to 30year lows, but it still increased of the population in jail, and the by 4.4 per cent from 1997 to 1998, US may overtake it. The total the survey showed.

The number of prisoners first hit a million in 1990, and even though the increase has

lion within two years. Nearly 90 per cent of prisoners are men, but the adult female prison population is growing faster than the male. The prison system is filled

more of their sentences and are over capacity, and it is adding more prison beds every two years than there are prisoners in total in Britain. The prison population is

disproportionately black and "Relative to their number of

US residents, black non-Hispanics were six times more likely than white non-Hispanics,

large that it distorts US unem-Hispanics, and almost 7.5 ployment figures and skews times more likely than persons of other races to have been held in a local jail on 30 June 1998," the Justice Department

A growing proportion of prisoners are doing time for drugs offences, but there are some anomalies in sentencing. The penalties for crack cocaine, a cheap but powerful gh, are significantly harsher than those for powder cocaine,

which is largely the preserve of the middle-class drug abuser. The prison population is so the voting register. The Sentencing Project says

that nearly 4 million Americans are denied the right to vote because they have a felony conviction, and nearly 1.4 million of them are black males.

The highest rates of incarceration are in the neighbouring southern states Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Mississippi. Texas and Louisiana both have more than 700 per 100,000 of their populations in jail, well over the Russian

Crowd stone artist for picture of Christ with transvestites

ANGRY SWEDES protesting BY MARCUS TANNER tion which depicts Christ in the The disturbances at the weekcompany of homosexuals and transvestites threw rocks at Norrkoeping, 75 miles souththe photographer when she

The "Ecce Homo" exhibition, provoked protests since it was first shown in the capital, Stockholm, last summer, and at Uppsala cathedral, the seat of the

west of Stockholm. Several stepped outside the exhibition hundred demonstrators gathered outside the building and began to hurl stones when Elis-

Latin for Behold the Man, has abeth Ohlson, stepped outside. "When they discovered it was me the tumuli began," Ms Ohlson said. "I didn't think they would recognise me." She fled country's Lutheran archbishop. back into the museum, appar-

warn that there was a bomb in end occurred at a museum in the museum, although no bomb

The photographs include one based on Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper, in which Christ is shown sitting with disciples who look like transvestites.

The showing of the photographs resulted in the Pope cancelling a visit to Uposala cathedral last year.

in Jerusalem

countries.

THE WORST drought in 50

years has led Israel to cut the

supply of desperately needed

water to Jordan, in a move

likely to provoke a crisis in

relations between the two

rains – only 40 per cent of nor-

mal in Israel - will have a dev-

astating impact on Jordan,

which suffered a severe water

shortage last year. In Amman,

the Jordanian capital, house-

holders found that when they

turned on their taps they re-

ceived only a trickle of grey

"It is very, very serious," says Gershon Baskin, director

of the Israel/Palestine Centre

for Research and Information

in Jerusalem. "By summer

people in Amman may be get-

ting only one or two days' water

a week. It is destabilising for

Israel is pledged by treaty to

supply Jordan with 45 million

cubic metres of water annual-

ly, but has told the Jordanian

government that it can only

send 40 per cent of this. Israeli

farmers have already had their

supply cut by a quarter. The

hills east of Jerusalem, usual-

ly carpeted with grass and wild

flowers at this time of year, are

as barren as in high summer.

the regime."

The failure of the winter

Anger as St Patrick's Day march excludes Irish gay activists

ently unhurt. Later an uniden- THE ST Patrick's Day celebra- BY DAVID USBORNE tified person telephoned to tions in New York are again in New York sparking confrontations with gay and lesbian activists who for years have fought unsuccessfully to join the march

down Manhattan's Fifth Avenue honouring the Irish saint. The march, to be held tomorrow, is one of the city's largest public events. A march on Sunday through parts of the Bronx, a precursor to tomorrow's main event, was marred by the arrest of six gay

and lesbian marchers, two of them elected officials. All six. members of the Lavender and Green Alliance, were charged with disorderly conduct before

being released. Meanwhile, the bomb squad was brought in to search St Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue during morning services, after congregation mem-

bers spotted several electronic

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sources are limited. In the east the affair may provoke a crisis

Jordan valley, the centre of in relations, especially as the

Jordanian agriculture, one of newly crowned King Abdullah

the main canals has grass

growing along its bottom. Last

year the filtration plants at the

Amman reservoirs stopped

working, leading to toxic water

regional water problems for 20

years, says: "For Israel it is an

economic issue; for Jordan it is

a survival issue." He says that

Jordan might lose half its crops

Mr Baskin, who has studied

flowing into the system.

devices planted around the alarm clocks designed to flash:

"Wake up Homophobia". Among those arrested in the Broox was Tom Duane, a New York state senator. "Tm an Irish

person. I'm a gay person. I'm here to try to march," he said. staged marches without incident. In Chicago, the river

Other cities across the US through the city centre was dyed green according to a tradition going back four decades.

Israeli drought cuts off Jordan's water supply

Turkey damming the waters of the upper Euphrates for irri-Southampton
Southampton/Eastleigh gation and agricultural schemes. Iraq is also dependent on the waters of the Euphrates, which can be dammed by Syria, and the Tigris, which

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comes from eastern Turkey. But Jordan is the most vulnerable country in the region, with few water resources of its own. The oasis at El Azraq, east of Amman, once full of water fowl, is now largely dried mud. In order to cope with the water crisis Jordan has been draining its aquifers at an unsustain-

Such water resources that it does have are at the upper end of the Jordan valley, where the Jordan river and the Yarmouk flow into the Sea of Galilee. Under the 1994 peace treaty be tween Israel and Jordan the country was to receive extra water from Israel It is this which is now being cut.

Last year, the first full year when the plan was in operation. Israel met its obligations. But nobody expected such a serious drought this year, and there are gave the go-ahead earlier in no provisions in the treaty about what to do if a water shortage affected the whole

As with Israel, most of the water in Jordan is used in agriculture, which consumes 68 per cent of the total supply. while domestic use is only 28 per cent. On other hand, Amman, with a third of the Jor-

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The government is expected to in the east Jordan valley. CALL 0181 253 8113 Jordan rejected outright the domestic product. declare an official drought in Countries in the Middle East danian population, is expand-Israeli proposal at the weekend In Jordan the situation is to cut the water supply. Israeli have long quarrelled about ing fast and using ever more much worse. Its own water rewater. Syria is vulnerable to

will need to show that he can

In Israel the government

this month for preliminary

studies for a desalination

plant. Experts argue, howev-

er, that the problem could be

solved by cutting the subsidies

to Israeli agriculture, which

takes 60 per cent of the water

in Israel but produces only

2 per cent of the gross

deal with the shortage.

Party sees red over **Oskar**

By IMRE KARACS in Berlin

THE LEFT and right wings of the German Social Democrat party united briefly yesterday against their common enemy: Oskar Lafontaine.

As the former finance minister sought peace in Tuscany. his colleagues rounded on him for betraying the trust of the voters. The left wing, which had stood behind Mr Lafontaine throughout his career, felt especially embittered.

Heide Simonis, Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, accused her erstwhile comrade on the left of "letting down all those in the party who had supported him through

"I was horrified at the way Oskar Lafontaine left." declared the MP Helmut Wieczorek, the Social Democrats' defence spokesman. "You can't treat a party which entrusts you with high office this way."

Wilfried Penner, another MP, said a resignation should be a quiet affair and its reasons should be clear. This, he concluded, was not the case with Mr Lafontaine's abrupt departure.

It was still not clear last night whether Chancellor Gerhard Schröder had been able to speak to his disenchanted colleague since last Thursday's resignation, beyond the two words - "not now" - reportedly uttered by Mr Lafontaine on the telephone. Mr Schröder broadcaster pretending to be President Roman Herzog, that he had not been told of the reasons for the resignation.

As Mr Schröder kept silent, Werner Müller, the Economics Minister, signalled a change in policy by announcing tax reform plans aimed at creating jobs. "The tax reform of 2000 will be a signal for an upswing and investment by business," he told Focus magazine.

Meanwhile, Heiner Flassbeck and Claus Noé, left wingers brought by Mr Lafontaine to the Finance Ministry, were reportedly on their way out, marking the end of Mr Lafontaine's Keynesian experiment.



Chinese premier attacks West over dissidents

Prime Minister, who Western politicians like to do business with, lashed out yesterday at the West's vocal backing for exiled dissidents.

"Don't support those socalled pro-democracy activists", he said. "If these people were to return to China, then there would be no legal system here, no democracy, no rule of law." Mr Zhu, who has a reputation for candour rare among senior Chinese leaders, was speaking at a televised press conference after the closing session of China's annual parliament. The assembly overwhelmingly voted through constitutional changes sanctioning a bigger role for private

business and "the rule of law".

Afterwards, Mr Zhu pro-

BY TERESA POOLE

mised "no restrictions" on what questions could be asked, though his answers would have disappointed anyone - including exiled dissidents such as Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan - looking for a man willing to break ranks with the party line.

Mr Zhu was clearly irritated by lectures on human rights from visiting Western statesmen. "It seems that without mentioning the question of human rights they would find it difficult to justify themselves when going back," he said. Mr Zhu described how Western politicians often produced lists of names "and say that these are the people who have been arrested, the so-called pro-

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democracy activists ... And then I would say, in China we have 1.25 billion people, and every day criminal offences are committed, so every day we are arresting some criminals."

His account of an exchange with the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, this month gave some idea of how such encounters failed to lead to a meeting of minds. "I said to her: I started my struggle for the protection and pursuance of human rìghts much earlier than you did'. And she asked: Really?" Mr Zhu, 80, told the 61-year-old Mrs Albright that when he had been fighting for "democracy, freedom and human rights" against China's former ruling Nationalists, she had still been in middle school.

Zhu is still a refreshing change from his dour predecessor, Li Peng. He showed off his reading of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice, joked about being hugged tight by the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, and airily dismissed US reports that 600 Chinese missiles were targeted at Taiwan. "I don't know that, how could you know it?" he asked rhetorically, and

somewhat disingenuously. Much of Mr Zhu's efforts were devoted to addressing his visit to Washington next month. Allegations that China stole nuclear secrets were part of an "anti-China wave in the US which has caused concern on our side", he said. Mr Zhu predicted a difficult trip. "I don't think my visit to the US After a year in his job, Mr will bring me into a minefield,

but I do expect to encounter some hostile or unfriendly atmosphere there," he said, "[But] I must go there to let you [Americans] vent your anger and your complaints." He said the two countries should restore the momentum for building a strategic partnership.

He dismissed allegations about nuclear espionage by China during the Eighties, saying no evidence had been produced and that China had no need to steal technology. He said those making the accusations "underestimated China's capability to develop and research military technologies. Chinese people are intelligent and diligent people ... China is fully capable of developing any military technology, it is only a matter of time."

Yeltsin publicly rebukes **Primakov**

By PHIL REEVES

FEARS THAT Russia faces another round of damaging political upheaval rose last night after Boris Yeltsin summoned his Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, to the hospital where he is being treated and publicly

Mr Yeltsin, sidelined for

Mr Yeltsin, being treated for meekly agreed.

Sacking the Prime Minister, who has irked him by drafting

A democratic waste of time

STREET LIFE

speak at a college of higher education in Moscow. The director looked visibly nervous when I pushed the lectern aside, sat among the students and asked them what they thought about the future of Russia. A lively discussion

"Anti-Semitism is a danger. Anybody who incites racial hatred should be prosecuted." "If this is a real democracy, you should be free to ex-

press any opinion you want. And anyway, what's wrong with the idea of Russia for the Russians? "Sure, we need a new na-

tional idea. We can't go on depending on the West But hating the Jews is a pretty lousy idea."

The students enjoyed themselves so much that they asked me to "come and give another talk" sometime and several took down my telephone number.

So it was that last week, I received a call from Irina, the young woman who had been searching for a positive national idea. Full of excitement, she asked if I would go and hear her speak at the launch of a "youth parliament". It seemed like a good opportunity to catch more of the Russian student debate.

The venue was the social club of the Moscow Aviation Institute. This college has been a hotbed of anti-Americanism since Washington included it on a blacklist of Russian institutions denied funds because of alleged atomic co-operation with Iran. In this setting, I envisaged a clash of Slavophiles and Westernisers, representatives of the two schools of thought that have vied with each other throughout Russìan hìstory.

The students were also expecting verbal fireworks, as they overflowed the 1.500seat hall. Instead, we were treated to a display of ballroom dancing by girls and army cadets, who swirled against a white backdrop, decorated with an image of a stork building a nest.

"Have I got the right place? I thought this was the the woman next to me. She was wearing a badge, identifying her as an organiser.
"Be patient. There will be

will endorse a couple of documents. Then the students will take the floor."

It turned out that the event was organised by Dobro

RECENTLY I was invited to (Good), a new centrist political movement of those who see the improvement of education as the key to Russian development. The idea of the youth parliament was to raise civic consciousness among the young. Also, I gathered, to give them some alternative to neo-Fascist movements such as Russian National Unity

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Would there be political parties in this mock parliament? No. The young people would develop their ideas in committees covering such subjects as the economy, law reform and ecology. There would be a "council of the wise", or body of grown-ups to make sure debate did not get out of hand.

The Minister of Education was the first of many adult speakers to come on stage and complain of the width of the generation gap, the loss of spirituality in Russia, the drug problem and the lack of respect for the law. As at an old Communist Party congress, the students sat in rows, unable to interject with comments or questions.

Gradually, they got up and left. They were voting with their feet. I followed three girls out into the fover and discovered they were journalism students. "We had thought we might write about this but it is so dull," said one. "It's just like the Komsomol (the nowdefunct Communist youth league]."

Irina was pacing up and down in the corridor A wouldbe politician, she had an interest in staying, as she was slated to speak when the "New Faces" or selected promising students were finally given access to the microphone. "I'm going to call for tax cuts to stimulate business," she said.

I fear she ended up speaking to an empty hall. To my shame, I did not stay to support her. Two hours into the proceedings, when the adults were still droning on, I left with a group of computer students. They were healthily patriotic, not anti-Western. On the side of the angels, they had been ready to join a "good" youth movement. But they had been bored away.

spray-painted with the swastikas of Russian National Unity. I suspect it will be a long time before the nesta few speeches now. And we building stork enters the repertoire of the graffiti artist. For many Russian youths, black leather and fascism are still more fun.

HELEN WOMACK

in Moscow

ticked him off.

months by ill-health and wan-ing political clout, must see the premier as the country's de facto leader and decided it was time to bring him to heel. There have been rumours that the President is contemplating sacking Mr Primakov, who took the job six months ago after massive debt default. Mr Yeltsin has also met two senior figures - Grigory Yavlinksy and Yegor Stroyev – who were also seen as candidates for prime

bleeding ulcer at the Central Clinic Hospital in Moscow, was televised admonishing Mr Primakov for having poor relations with the media. He said there was "no wedge" in their relationship - and the premier

Undermining Mr Primakov at a time when Russia needs to convey the impression of stability to the outside world — difficult talks are under way with the International Monetary Fund over more loans - defies logic. But that has rarely governed Mr Yeltsin's political decisions in recent years.

a political agreement with parliament limiting the Kremlin's powers, would cause another political crisis, distracting attention for the harsh economic issues that face the country.

It is unclear whether Mr Yeltsin would go that fac. But it is not impossible that his premier, angered by Mr Yeltsin's ticking off may wonder whether he wants to carry on.

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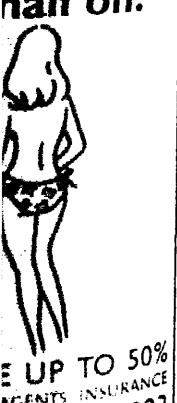
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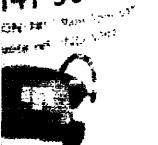
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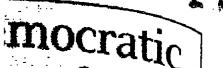
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Man Utd soars on MMC hopes

WARFS IN Manchester United rose sharply yesterday as investors became convinced that its 2625m takeover by BSkyB is set to be waved through. Manchester United shares hit a record high of 240p, valuing the club at 2523m. Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, is due to

rule on the takeover in the next few weeks after receiving the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on Friday Shares in other football clubs, such as Leeds, Tottenham Hotspur and Newcastie, also rose on hopes that a BSkyB-Man Utd deal will trigger a wave of similar takeovers.

Move 'may ease bank mergers' SIR BRIAN PITMAN



(pictured) chairman of Lloyds TSB, the clearing bank, said yesterday that moves announced last independent competition regulator might make it easier to resolve issues that have stalled attempts to bring about a merger between the top UK banks Sir Brian, talking in the light of the banking merger battle in France, has spoken often of Lloyds's desire to

Lucas wins Eurofighter contracts

LUCASVARITY said its Lucas Aerospace unit has won five contracts worth at least £300m to provide engine controls for the Eurojet EJ200 engine that powers the Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft. The group said these contracts, plus £100m of airframe business already secured, bring the total value of the Eurofighter programme for Lucas Aerospace to more than £400m. Lucas Aerospace will serve as the lead contractor in three deals, providing the afterburner fuel control unit and main engine fuel pump to Rolls-Royce and the main fuel metering unit to Industria de Turbo Propulsores (ITP) of Spain. For the other two contracts, Lucas Aerospace will supply digital electronic control unit modules to MTU Muenchen of Germany and nozzle actuators to Microtecnica of Italy.

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Nasdag	2412.28	30.59	1,28	2533.44	1357.09	0.28
Toronto 300	6612,20	48,44	0.74	7837.70	5320.90	1.61
Brazil Bovespa	10092.95	515.93	5.39	12339.14	4575.69	6.17
Belgium Bel20	3343.80	24,23	0.73	3713.21	2696.26	2,10
Amsterdam Exch	535.05	2.03	0,38	600.65	366.58	1,92
France CAC 40	4185.12	10.09	0.24	4404.94	2881.21	1.87
Milan MIB30	37069.00	590.00	1.62	39170.00	24175.00	1.10
Madrid Ibex 35	10121.00	26.30	0.26	10989.80	6869.90	1,72
Irish Overall	5324.62	-79.68	-1.47	5581.70	3732 <u>.5</u> 7	1.56
S Korea Comp	592.02	1.22	0.21	651,95	277.37	0.29
Austračia ASX	2989.50	28.20	0.95	2976,40	2386.70	3.08
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SHORT STERLING 5.46 5.44	UK 10 YEAR GILT	US LONG BOND 5.58
SA2 T F M	4.55 7 W 7 F M	5.52 T W T F M
MONEY MARKI		gartet rets equal ears ret BOND YIELDS

MONEY MARKET RATES					BOND YIELDS				
	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Trebg 1	Long bond	Yr cbg	
odex UK			5.38				4.55	-1.34	
us	5.00	-0.69	5.29	-0.49	5.16	0.38	5,53	0.33	
Japan	0.19	-0.51	0.23	-0.45	1.86	0.05	2.97	0.56	
Germany	3.04	-0.47	3.03	-0.70	4.00	-0.85	5.01	-0.45	
			ri p i	REN		C			

1.500	196
A	194
···· · / N	1 1
1.480	192
	190
T W T F M	T W T F M

	: POUND				DOLLAR					
٠.		Change	"Yr Ago		ac Spen	-	Yr Ago			
Dollar	1.5224	-1.23c	1.6680	Scerting	0.6164	+0 <u>.46</u> p	0.5995			
Euro	1.4839		1.4079	Euro	0.9146	-17.93 <u>c</u>	0.8571			
	191.03	-¥3.52·	216.40	Yen	117.76	¥1,29	129.52			
£ Index	103.10		106.80		108.00	0.00	108.50			
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7	Close	. Oz	Yr Ago	Index	Cleg	Yr ago	Nest Sp
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old (C)	2R PRC	-2.50	295.35	RPI 163.40	2.40	159,57	Mar
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(5)	-5.21	-0.43	6.24	Base Rates	5.50	. 7,25	K at Spe
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lustralia (\$)	2,4859	Mexican (nuevo peso)	74,47
ustria (schillings)	19.84	Netherlands (guilders)	3,1836
Belgium (francs)	58.34	New Zealand (S)	2,9252
anada (S)	2,4205	Norway (kroner)	_12.38
yprus (pounds)	0,8331	Portugal (escudos)	287,80
Penmark (kroner)	10.82	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5,9290
inland (markka)	8.6206	Singapore (\$)	2.6678
rance (francs)	9,4738	South Africa (rands)	9,6786
ermany (marks)	2.8346	Spain (pesetas)	239.87
reece (drachma)	465.32	Sweden (kronor)	12.92
long Kong (S)	12.23	Switzerland (francs)	2.3174
reland (punts)	1,1369	Thailand (bahts)	54.73
ndien (rupees)	62.05	Turkey (lirasi)	565787
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taly (fira)	2809	<u></u>	
apan (yen)	189.00	Rates for Indication purposes	only
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Renault set to take £2.6bn stake in troubled Nissan

- Link-up would create the world's fourth-biggest car maker
- Nissan calls it a partnership, but Renault would have control
- Nissan shares surge 13 per cent as traders await announcement

THE FRENCH car maker By Michael Harrison Renault is today poised to forge a ground-breaking alliance with an, paying about £2.6bn to take a stake of up to 40 per cent in the loss-making and debtladen Japanese car maker.

An announcement of the tieup could come as early as this morning following a meeting of the Renault board in Paris to sanction the deal, the first major investment in a Japanese motor manufacturer by a European rival. The tie-up between Renault

and Nissan is the latest in a series of mega-mergers in the motor industry and would create the world's fourth-biggest carmaker with sales of just over 4 million vehicles, putting it a shade ahead of Volkswagen and DaimlerChrysler The deal is expected to be

funded through an issue of new Renault shares. But the French government, which still holds a 44 per cent stake in Renault, would also release some of its residual shares to the Japanese company, mostly for cosmetic This would allow Nissan to resent the deal as a two-way

industrial partnership, not a rescue, as it more properly is. Last night sources in Jàpan were insisting that the alliance be viewed as a "a partnership of equals" although it was being said in Paris that the deal would give Renault effective management control with three seats on the board and a veto over all strategic decisions.

in London, PAUL LEE in Tokyo AND

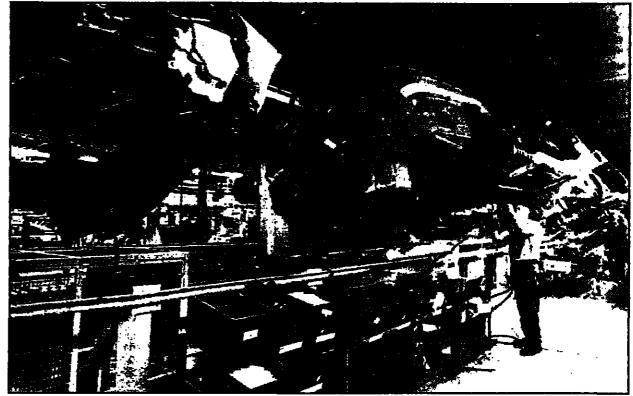
Industry observers said the alliance would be a good strategic fit, however. Nissan is strong in Japan and the US, where Renault has little or no presence, while the French car-maker is a dominant player in Europe, particularly the utility vehicle market, where Nissan has traditionally been weaker: Nissan's president, Yoshi-

kazu Hanawa, yesterday briefed the Nissan board on the details of the deal, having flown to Paris at the weekend for talks with Renault's chairman, Louis Schweitzer, to try to clinch the agreement following the collapse of merger talks with DaimlerChrsyler.

The talks are thought to have foundered because of Nissan's colossal debts, which total \$36bn. But by restricting its stake to under 40 per cent, Renault could class Nissan as an associate company and thereby keep the debts off its own balance sheet. Yesterday Nissan's stock

surged 13 per cent, to close at 454 yen (240p), as dealers prepared for an announcement.
"We are considering the possibility of a tie-up with the French company Renault, but we have not received a formal offer," the Japanese firm said in a state-The Renault-Nissan alliance

is expected to focus initially on take advantage of Renault's



Nissan's UK factory in Washington, Tyne & Wear, could be part of a new alliance Stuart Outterside/North News

WORLD'S TOP TEN CAR MAKERS million units, 1998 estimates Ford Toyota Daihatsu Honda PSA Peugeot Citroen

joint purchasing and component sharing. But eventually it could extend to model development, using common plat-

Mitsubishi

Hyundal/Kla

forms and shared production. The Japanese firm could production plants in Argentina and Brazil. But Renault would be buying

into a financially troubled company. In the past year Nissan has struggled to cope with Japan's collapse in demand across its vital Asian market. It has warned it will suffer a 30 billion yen (£158m) group net loss in the financial year ending this month. Nissan's debts in March last wanted to make one of its exyear stood at 2,500 billion yen ecutives vice-president. (£13 billion), a concern which

prompted the US ratings agency Moody's to cut Nissan's senior debt rating to junk bond last week Nissan, like many Japanese firms, is reluctant to open its boardroom doors to foreigners. "The basic issue is of a proud

management wanting to preserve its own position," said Christopher Richter, auto analyst at HSBC Securities in Tokyo.

bitter pill to swallow," he said. The Japanese press said on Monday that Renault wanted three seats on the board and

Speculation in France is that Renault might use the Nissan partnership to try to launch its successful designs - the Twingo, the Clio and the Scenic version of the Megane - on the American and Asian markets, exploiting Nissan's spare production capacity in North America. Beyond that, it could build successful Nissan 4X4 designs - something missing from the Renault range - in

Outlook, page 17

Veba's £1.78bn | CSFB launches \$12bn stake sale cuts Russian debt swap plan link with C&W

VEBA, the giant German util- By PETER THAL LARSEN ity, yesterday severed its last remaining link with Cable & Wireless when it sold its 10.2 per cent shareholding in the telephone group, raising

The sale, which generated a DM2.6bn paper profit for Veba, was carried out yesterday morning through ABN Amro and Cazenove, the stockbrokers, in a so-called bought

The brokers bought the shares from Veba for 724.2p each and placed them with institutional investors at 735p, making a £26.5m profit in the process. It is understood that demand from investors was so strong that the placing was completed just 10 minutes after the market opened.

News of the placing, which was carried out at an 11 per cent discount to C&W's closing share price on Friday, dragged C&W shares down by 79.5p to 751p yesterday.

Other telecoms shares. such as British Telecom and Telewest, were caught in the crossfire as institutional investors sold out to help fund their purchases of C&W

Analysts also viewed the placing as a signal that tele-

coms stocks might have hit their peak. Last month Hutchison Whampoa, the Asian group, sold a 5.1 per cent stake in Orange, the mobile phone operator.

C&W is thought to have been kept fully informed about the sale and even offered advice to Veba. The co-operation between the two was underlined by the selection of ABN Amro and Cazenove, both of which are brokers to C&W.

Veba bought the stake for DM2.5bn in early 1995 when C&W took a stake in Veba's telecoms subsidiary, Vebacom, and the two companies set up a joint venture for an attack on European telecoms markets outside Germany. However the alliance unravelled in 1997, leaving Veba as a passive

Veba's move is bound to heighten speculation that it is | its clients holds as much as 40 poised to raise its shareholding in the German mobile operator E-Plus. Following its merger with Airtouch, Vodafone has put its 17 per cent stake in the German operator up for sale. Veba also has a shareholding in o.tel.o, an aggressive fixed-line operator that is taking on Deutsche Telekom.

CREDIT SUISSE First Boston By DIANE COYLE

(CSFB) yesterday announced a plan to restructure Russian foreign debt worth \$12bn (£7.4bn). It launched a fund that will swap worthless Russian government debt for stakes in oil and gas projects. The plan is an alternative to repayment proposals put forward by the Russian authorities.

"increasingly be accepted" by the authorities. At an informal meeting yesterday it invited other banks on the 19-strong committee negotiating with Russia to invest in its new Nikitsky Recovery Fund.

ceptance by three banks of the government's terms on part of their holdings of the Treasury bills and bonds - GKOs and OFZs - on which Russia defaulted in August. These included Deutsche Bank, which formerly chaired the bankers'

CSFB, which together with per cent of the debt in question Russian Federation". That deal will offer an even-

tual return of just five cents in

CSFB said the fund would **RUSSIAN'S EXTERNAL DEBT**

The move follows the ac-

said the new fund would "permit both its own investor base and other investors to participate in a recovery proposal radically different from that currently on offer from the

Economics Editor

the dollar. The breaking of ranks by Deutsche, Chase and Credit Lyonnais to accept the outline terms earlier this month angered other banks on the committee that had hoped to negotiate a better deal Nomura was one of the 19

which expressed support yesterday for the Nikitsky Fund. Daniel Jackson, head of emerging markets fixed income in its

Securities issued abroad

Official bilateral loans

Due within one year

ceptually sound."

IMF and other multilaterals

Memo: International reserves

The Nikitsky proposal will

swap the defaulted bonds into

claims on equity in specific projects, mainly in oil and gas. The fund has certain invest-

Total consolidated liabilities to banks

nies in its sights, and is reported to have half the funds it seeks subscribed already. The more investors it has,

ments by major US oil compa-

said yesterday's statement, the greater will be its negotiating power, not least with the Russian government. CSFB indicated that the plan had the authorities' approval in princi-However, other banks on the negotiating committee are now

7,676

25,671

16,068

35,067

75,672

any bank pay CSFB for some-

The principle of debt-for-eq-

uity swaps is widely favoured.

Other bankers had been seek-

ing to negotiate this form of re-

thing it can do itself?"

likely to approach the Russian

Export earnings on oil should secure the returns. A quarter of the dividend the fund achieves will be paid to the investment adviser, on top of an The Nikitsky Recovery Fund will be managed by Baiame Strategic Advisers, run by Andrew Ipkendanz. Mr Ipkendanz

The Nikitsky Fund is to have

a minimum life of seven years.

come group. There was no comment yesterday from Russia's Ministry

is a former head of CSFB's

emerging markets fixed in-

According to new figures yesterday. Russia's total external debt reached \$100bn last year. More than a third of this falls due within a year. Its consolidated debt to overseas banks - loans plus outstanding bonds amounts to nearly \$76bn.

The Treasury bonds and hills in yesterday's plan from CSFB amounted to a \$40bn market. Paying no interest but offering potentially huge capital gains, they were speculative investments that were always likely to burn some investors if Russia either defaulted or devalued In August, it did both.

An International Monetary Fund team is now in Moscow negotiating terms for new IMF

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

EQUITIES WERE unsettled by the big placing of Cable & Wireless. At one time Footsie was down 122.8 points; it closed 75.4 lower at 6.206.8, with share volume, thanks to C&W, nudging 1.5 billion, one of the highest ever Supporting shares fell back, with the mid cap

index ending a 15-day winning run. C&W led the blue-chip retreat, off 79.5p at 751p. Psion, the handheld computer group, was a top performer, jumping 105p to 860p on rumours of new mini-computers. Derek Pain, page 19

NEW YORK

WALL STREET pressed on to new and giddy heights as the Dow neared the 10,000 milestone. The index hit a new trading high of 9959.88 during a morning rally, but later eased

The charge was led by technology stocks. Transport stocks also surged as UAL, a transport group, gave a bullish forecast. The sector has been boosted by the fall in the oil price and fare hikes for

● TOKYO

STOCKS ROSE solidly amid growing optimism that Japan was finally about to emerge from recession. Bargain-hunting lifted the Nikkei 225 by 1.88 per cent and the index closed up 290 points at 15,779.60. The optimism was encouraged

by comments from Masaru Hayami, governor of the Bank of Japan, Mr Hayami said the central bank was still targeting the overnight call rate, guiding it to had feared the Bank might tighten its monetary stance.

London office, said: "The other government to discuss other

plan's concept was flawed. This debt-for-equity proposals. As

one is fundamentally and con- one said yesterday: "Why would

PARIS STOCKS rose modestly yesterday, with the CAC-40 closing up just 0.24 per cent in spite of the Nissan-Renault talks. The index gained 10.09 points to close at 4,185.12.

Sentiment was held back by the absence of an anticipated rally in banking shares on the back of BNP's bid for Société Générale and Paribas. BNP. nerally expected to win the bid, barely moved as traders awaited

FRANKFURT THE BLUE-CHIP Xetra DAX index

hovered as investors waited for clues on economic policy. The Xetra closed up 12.17 points, or 0.24 per cent, at 5,043.23 points.

Traders said market sentiment had shown an improvement since the resignation of Oskar Lafontaine. But the market was still waiting to learn about Hans Eichel, the state premier of Hesse and a pragmatic moderate. Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor,

said on Friday he would press on with radical tax reforms.

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Holiday mergers book into Europe

News Analysis: The link-up of First Choice and the Swiss group Kuoni creates a £1.4bn giant

BY PHILIP THORNTON Transport Correspondent

THE FRENETIC consolidation of Britain's travel industry took on an entirely new dimension yesterday after a UK tour operator confirmed it was seeking its future in Europe. First Choice and Kuoni Reisen, the Swiss travel group, published the terms of the £1.4bn merger that will create a powerhouse of a business with 7 million customers in 20 countries.

A new UK-based company called Kuoni Holdings plc will be formed to run the combined group, and its shares will be listed in both London and Zürich. Kuoni shareholders will own 53 per cent of the new group with the remainder owned by holders of First Choice shares.

The deal, news of which was sneaked out on Budget day last week, marks a fresh stage in a process sparked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1997 when it gave a clean bill of health to competition within the UK market.

Since that report, Thomas Cook has bought the UK activities of Carlson, the US group, in a deal that creates a £25bna-year business. The company's Sunworld holiday business has snapped up Flying Colours which includes the Club 18-30

First Choice has bought tour operator Unijet and upmarket travel company Hayes and Jarvis in a joint deal worth £134m. Thomson Travel has made seven acquisitions since its flotation last May, including Simply Travel and the Polish company, Scan Holiday.

Yesterday's merger marks a departure from the strategy of next round of consolidation



Ian Clubb (left) of First Choice, executive chairman of the new group, and Knoni's Riccardo Gullotti, who will be chief executive Reuters

previous deals. Rather than pursuing vertical integration between travel agency, tour operators and charter airlines in the UK, the Kuoni/First Choice deal marries a UK highvolume tour operator with an international travel group whose sales operations cover a wide geographical spread. This means the merger is unlikely to encounter opposition from UK or European competition reg-

Ian Clubb, the chairman of First Choice, told The Independent: "The key reason behind this merger is that it creates a company that would be capable of participating in the

that we believe will occur in the European industry."

He said the merger put First Choice, which had suffered from a small market capitalisation, on a similar ranking to the UK market leaders in terms of size, Thomson Travel "Our view is that in the UK

most of the consolidation that can happen has happened. There are four companies with something like 80 per cent of the market and it is our view, based on experience and advice, that combining any two of those four would end up with serious competition problems." He said a referral to the

MMC would take six months,

while a second-stage European Commission competition inquiry would take another five. "The thought of keeping First Choice hanging about for that length of time is just anathema," said Mr Clubb.

There had been speculation that Airtours, the secondbiggest UK operator, might step into the fray and bid for First Choice, which held third place before the Kuoni deal. But it is highly likely that such a deal, which would have created a leviathan with one-third of the UK market, would have been blocked, especially in the wake of Government's decision to launch a wide-ranging inquiry into high-street prices.

First Choice shares fell 14.5p to 173p yesterday as rumours of a rival bid receded.

Mr Chibb said Kuoni Holdings plc would be ideally placed to take advantage of the next wave of consolidation in Europe. "We would have found it very difficult as First Choice to make a big step into Europe, but with the multi-cultural Kuoni team that's easy to achieve and we will have the financial muscle to do it," said Mr Clubb, who becomes executive chairman.

The merged group will be behind Germany's Preussag in Europe, but a leadership battle is not on the cards as profits, not size, is the key, Kuoni said.

Financial figures published by the two companies yesterday showed that First Choice made a pre-tax profit of £50m in the year to October, a 330 per cent rise on the £15.4m it made in 1997. Turnover rose about 20 per cent to £1.24bn. Kuoni increased its profits to £62.6m

Kuoni Holdings will include wide range of businesses. First Choice brings a 250-strong retail network, its tour operation. business in the UK, Ireland and Canada and the Air 2000 airline. Kuoni's businesses include premium long-haul holidays, a charter airline and one of the largest Swiss travel agencies.

in 1998 from £56.7m on sales up

by £460m to £2.25bn.

First Choice Thomas Cook Airtours

The two groups said there would be extensive benefits First the MMC report opened from the merger, Kuoni Holdings will have strong positions in the leisure markets in Austria, Canada, Denmark, France. India, Ireland, Italy and the Far East as well as in the home markets of the two merg-

er partners. Other benefits include savings in buying aviation fuel and insurance and making more efficient use of the combined operations' resources. Mr Chubb said it was too early to detail exactly what cost savings would be made through the merger, but he made clear there would be no job cuts among the 11,000 workers.

A major benefit, especially for investors worried by the cyclical nature of the travel business, will be a greater ability to manage seasonal capacity and demand across different ographical markets.

Where this leaves the rest of the UK industry is unclear. The consolidation to date has

been driven by two factors. the floodgates for acquisitions as it hinted that there would be no regulatory problems for further vertical integration other than in the travel insurance

But that process has largebeen completed and only two independent tour operators with more than I per cent market shares remain - Cosmos and Inspirations. The second factor has been

the growing trend towards long haul holidays at the expense of the traditional package holiday to the Mediter-ranean. Industry figures show that long-haul holidays have grown by 12.3 per cent over the past four years compared with a 1.4 per cent fall in short-haul.

One industry analyst said: This is what the First Choice deal is about - putting Kuoni's high-margin premium longhaul business together with the First Choice low-margin

Tomkins to hand back further £400m as disposals continue

Morgan Crucible in £170m chemicals sale

TOMKINS, the diversified in- BY MICHAEL HARRISON dustrial group, yesterday unveiled plans to buy back £400m of its shares and streamline itself further by selling its lawnmower and bicycle division.

The restructuring will leave Tomkins, which is about to fall out of the FTSE 100 index, with total debt of about 6600m and three core businesses focusing on the construction, automotive and food sectors.

The buyback will be in the form of a tender offer for 15 per cent of Tomkins's shares priced in a range of 220p to 250p. It follows a series of share repurchases this year totalling £143m. The market gave a lukewarm response to news of the latest buyback, and Tomkins shares fell by 6 per cent to 221.5p.

dustrial ceramics and carbon

company, yesterday confirmed

it was in talks to sell its chem-

ical products business, the

biggest part of a rationalisation

caused by a slump in orders,

pected to appounce it is selling

the division for £170m to Illinois

The group is this week ex-

writes Andrew Verity.

sold are Murray Inc, the US lawnmower, snowblower and bicycle company that Tomkins bought for \$232m 10 years ago, and its UK mowing machinery business Hayter, bought for fAm. Tomkins has decided not to

sell the handgun company Smith & Wesson, which together with the two lawnmower businesses makes up its professional, garden and leisure products division. Tomkins said it did not believe a series of legal actions against Smith & Wesson in the US seeking to hold it responsible for "negligent distribution" would go against the company

Greg Hutchings, Tomkins 6 per cent to 221.5p. chairman, said the group locked at several acquisition opportu-

a profit fall that led to a 30 per

cent share plunge in January.

Graham Swetman, finance di-

rector, said: "We are in discus-

sions with a potential buyer

about the chemicals division in

line with what we said about our

Morgan warned in January

new strategy earlier this year."

that it expected full-year prof-

MORGAN CRUCIBLE, the in- Tool Works of the US to address



Greg Hutchings: Denies dispute over strategy

nities, including one worth more than \$2bn (£1,25bn) but had decided to hand capital back to shareholders because none of the deals would have generated

its to be at least 15 per cent

below expectations owing to

weakening customer demand.

sion suffered last year from cuts

in production by Boeing, one of

its largest customers. A strike

at General Motors and de-

stocking by microchip makers

lan Norris, Morgan's new

also affected sales.

The chemical products divi-

have the resources to undertake bolt-on acquisitions after the buyback, although not on the scale of 1997 when it spent £741m, including the automotive components maker Stant.

The buyback price repre-sents a premium of at least 7 per cent to Tomkins's closing price last Thursday, the day before it announced its intention to launch a tender offer.

Mr Hutchings would not be drawn on whether Tomkins will further pare its portfolio of businesses. Its other brands include Bisto, Hovis, Lyons Cakes and Trico windscreen wipers. He denied that there was discord among board members over group strategy, but said it was being reviewed regularly.

chief executive, foreshadowed

the result of a strategy review

earlier this year. He said the

Windsor-based group, a world

leader in five of its specialist

materials, would now focus on

ceramics and carbon. Further

disposals are expected, and

analysts urged the company to

use proceeds for an acquisition.

IN BRIEF **Rockware sold**

for £240m ARDAGH, the Irish

glassmaker, yesterday said its British subsidiary had agreed to buy Rockware, glass containers, in a deal worth £240m. The deal takes the form of a reverse takeover from Owens-Illinois, which bought the company in 1998 as part of BTR's packaging businesses

B&B's defence

BRADFORD & BINGLEY WIL today set out its defence against proposals to demutualise the society. The society faces a vote next month on whether to take steps towards floating and distributing windfall shares to members. John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, yesterday urged members to vote against the proposal to protect jobs.

New mortgage

NATIONWIDE yesterday launched the first mortgage in the country to track European interest rates while lending money in sterling. The mortgage, which carries no exchange rate risk, will be set at 1.75 per cent above the interest rate set by the European Central Bank. In the first year it will offer a 1 per cent discount, giving a starting rate of 3.75 per cent.

Fibernet talks end

FIBERNET, the fibre-optic cable services group, yesterday set it had ended taiks about a possible acquisition because they were unlikely to reflect the group's value. The group is still in talks over a possible joint venture.

Terranova dismisses £230m Unigate bid

TERRANOVA FOODS, the fresh By NIGEL COPE foods group demerged from Hillsdown Holdings last year, has rejected a bid from Unigate that would have valued the business at £230m. The late Friday bid was at about 125p a share compared to yesterday's unchanged share price of

The offer was rejected "out of hand" by Terranova. "This approach very significantly undervalued the business and was rejected without further discussion," the company said.

Unigate called off a £1.6bn bid for the whole of Hillsdown last year before it demerged its chilled foods and Fairview Homes divisions. Unigate was mainly interested in the chilled Associate City Editor

foods division, now called Terranova, which makes chilled dressed salads, sandwiches and poultry products under the Buxted chickens brand. It would fit well with Unigate's chilled foods operations, analysts said. Unigate is unlikely to walk

away and is now expected to sound out Terranova's major shareholders. Franklin Resources of the US is the largest with 19 per cent, followed by Phillips & Drew with 14 per cent and Prudential with 11 per cent. It has not ruled out a hostile bid.

Unigate's offer is at a large premium to the 75p Terranova's shares hit earlier this month. However, it would still be at a relatively low exit multiple of 12. It is thought Terranova would

be looking for at least 170p. Last week Terranova reported its maiden full-year results. Chief executive Terry Stannard repeated the company's commitment to independence. "Without any reference to speculation, we believe we have a super company with management energised by our independent status."

The results showed a fall in operating profits from £27.3m to £25.3m, and the company said trading conditions remained very competitive in Europe.

Unigate shares closed 3p lower at 410.5p yesterday.

Net users get ready to count their beenz

A BRITISH Internet start-up company will today attempt to steal a march on larger rivals when it unveils a new virtual money, which it hopes will become the dominant currency of the World Wide Web, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

The currency unit, called beenz, comprises electronic credits that Internet users can save and spend as they surf. They cannot be exchanged into real money.

Companies will be able to offer beenz to lure visitors to sites or encourage them to fill in questionnaires about themselves. Users will then be able to trade in the credits at other sites in return for discounts on

products or access to certain types of information.

The credits are issued by The Beenz Company, a oneyear-old company that is the brainchild of Charles Cohen, a former Liberal Democrat speechwriter. The firm, which has raised several million dollars in funding from investors in the US and UK, has also gained the backing of US technology giants Oracle and Sun

Philip Letts, chief executive of Beenz, said the time was ripe for the idea. "The one thing that is missing from the Internet is a currency," he said. "Merchants have to find some way of exchanging value."

Japanese ! boost for Psion

By Peter Thal Larsen

PSION, the hand-held computer maker, received a welcome boost yesterday when Symbian, its software joint venture, signed a wide-ranging agree-ment with the Japanese mobile phone giant NTT DoCoMo to develop mobile telecommunication devices and services. 🚱

The deal is the first that Symbian has announced since it was created last summer through Psion injecting its EPOC operating system software into a joint venture with mobile phone manufacturers

Motorola, Ericsson and Nokla. Symbian and NTT DoCoMo said the alliance would define specifications to provide complete end-to-end solutions for the Japanese market. The partnership is expected to develop network solutions and services as well as hand-held commu-

nication devices. The deal is a breakthrough for Symbian, which has come in for intense criticism recently for failing to sign up new licensees for EPOC. Japan is expected to

be a key market Shares in Psion, which has a 33 per cent shareholding in Symbian, closed up 105p for

The European Index-Tracking PEP

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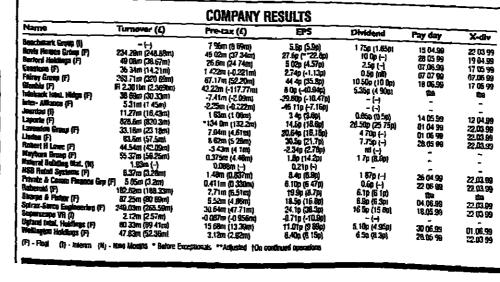
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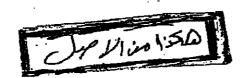
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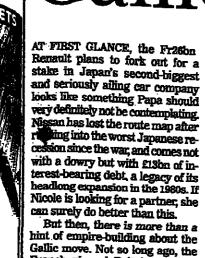








Jurope Gallic empire-building with Nissan of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of their money back - even if the might have been enough to make of the might have been enough to might have been enough



But then, there is more than a hint of empire-building about the Gallic move. Not so long ago, the French viewed Britain as little more than a "Japanese aircraft carrier" moored off Europe's northwest coast, because it was home to three transplant factories including Nissan's Sunderland plant How sweet now to be riding to

the rescue as the good ship Nissan lists alarming under the weight of its debts and its flagging range of models. Renault can magnanimously present the deal as an algovernment, which still owns 44 per cent of the shares, can even donate a soupcon of its residual stake to Nissan as a sign of good faith.

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OUTLOOK

If a means can be found of keeping Nissan's debts away from the Renault balance sheet (and with the French state as co-driver all things are possible) then the industrial logic too looks more compelling. Nissan gives Renault an entree into the US, Japan, and the 4x4 sector, where it has no presence at all, as well as a head start in the development of efficient, environmentally friendly engine technology.

Renault, meanwhile, is an object lesson for Nissan in how to design cars and then plan their introduction. In the Espace and the Scenic, the French have led the way in creating the only two genuinely new market segments of the last 15 years. The

crucially, there is virtually no overlap in manufacturing capacity, which spares them from the destructive and distracting task of closing plants and laying off workers.

Tomkins

GREG HUTCHINGS, chairman of terday as he prepared for his company's exit from the FTSE 100 share index. According to analysts, Tomkins will make pre-tax profits this year of around £500m. None of the four newcomers joining the index make anything like that amount, and one of them, Energis, makes no money at all. Mr Hutchings knows as well as anyone that the stock market values companies by reference to their perceived future prospects, not their past, but even so, this must seem a trifle perverse.

For many years, Mr Hutchings, a Lord Hanson protégé, did terri-bly well for his shareholders. Following in the maestro's footsteps, he built a many-faceted conglomerate out of businesses in mature, cash-generative industries. Even

may compete within Europe but, fashionable, he stuck to his guns, insisting that, fundamentally, all businesses were the same - the only thing that separates one from another, in his view, is good and bad

The turning point for his share price was the acquisition of Ranks Hovis McDougall. The age of the conglomerate was not quite over. but even then hardly anyone, apart Tomkins, was in resigned mood yes- from Mr Hutchings, believed it made any sense to combine food manufacturing with automotive and construction components, Smith & Wesson guns, bicycles and lawnmowers. As it happens, the "buns to guns" combine, as Tomkins rudely became known in the press, has been as good as its word, and in a difficult market, it has managed to increase margins and

profits at Ranks quite markedly. Not that this has done Mr Hutchings any good. It is not just congiomerates that are unfashionable: Tomkins is also in some deeply unfashionable businesses too, cashgenerative though they might be. Mr Hutchings has struggled to find a way forward, but the big acquisition he needed to fuel earnings and growth has failed to come his way. on a course of action he always vowed to resist - share buy-ins. Even for him, it's a no-brainer with the share price as low as this; few acquisitions could ever promise to be as earnings-enhancing.

Since the last figures, Tomkins has bought back more than 5 per cent of its shares; a tender offer for a further 15 per cent is now planned. However, the offer has been pitched at such a miserable level that unless the share price continues to shrink, few shareholders are going to want to avail

Mr Hutchings has had a good innings. It may be unfair and unjust to say it, but Tomkins is a company that looks to have had its time. A more radical break-up than the one proposed is called for Everything else has been tried; separating the company for disposal or merger into its three core constituent parts looks to be about the only option left that might be worth pursuing.

Russian bonds

THE RETURNS once available on

even the most naive of investors suspicious, but that sort of thing has never stood between the trader and his destiny, and once they got to hear about it, foreign bankers piled in like there was no tomorrow.

When Russia finally and inevitably defaulted last summer, foreigners were left holding around \$40bn worth of the wretched things. Ever since, they have been desperately trying to salvage something from the wreckage. Now CSFB has come up with a plan that offers a ray of hope - though not

Russia's total external debt stands at about \$100bn. It has around \$8bn in foreign currency reserves. The national budget plans for payment of only about half the interest due this year. Fresh inflows of private capital, which had been helping the government to keep up payments, have shrunk from \$15bn a year to zero. The economy is contracting, lower oil prices are cutting into export earnings, and the government's already poor ability to collect taxes has deteriorated to the

The bottom line is that foreign

Now he's being forced to fall back might have been enough to make of their money back - even if, as rumoured, a new deal with the IMF is close. Small wonder, then, that the banks on the negotiating committee have differed over tacties. Deutsche Bank, which formerly chaired the committee, was generally condemned when it accepted terms that offered a mere 5 cents in the dollar, maximum.

Deutsche was nevertheless followed by Chase and Credit Lyonnais. CSFB has now struck out on its own with a proposed debt-forassets swap, inviting other investors to join it. The plan comes with a stiff success fee of course; this is investment banking, after all.

Even so, CSFB expects the return on its new fund to be higher than the 5 cents on offer from the Russian government, Given Russia's fundamental inability to repay its debts, the asset swap approach may be the right one. Russia's vast oil reserves provide a ready source of dollar-denominated earnings which might be carmarked for investors. Still, they would be wise not to count on it. The basic arithmetic, combined with the country's unstable political and social situation, does not leave much room for

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Fig. EUROTUNNEL yesterday By Michael Harrison raised hopes among its longsuffering shareholders that it week could start paying a dividend earlier than planned after not like to make a forecast but reporting its first bottom-line

The Channel Tunnel operator made a net profit of £64m man of the Anglo-French ast year after reassing a one-off £279m gain following the completion of its mammoth last year after realising a one-

Even at the operating level own targets, recording a £184m profit - a three-fold increase on 195 and a 50 per cent imtained in its debt restructuring prospectus. Underlying losses, after interest, fell from £611m in 1997 to £215m.

On the current schedule paying its 730,000 shareholders a dividend until 2006. But Georges-Christian Chazot, the group managing director, said yesterday: "Our objective is to

Business Editor

bring that date forward. I would we are working towards that

Patrick Ponsolle, the chairgroup, pledged that operating profits this year would at least meet the prospectus forecast of But with traffic levels up 12

Eurotunnel comfortably beat its per cent already this year and a 20 per cent increase in car shuttle prices taking effect in the summer, analysts expect provement on the forecast con- Eurotunnel to beat that target, even if duty-free sales are abolished in July. Eurotunnel also announced

plans to cut its interest payments further by offering to Eurotunnel is not due to start redeem early £936m of equity notes that it exchanged for borrowings last year as part of the restructuring of its £8bn debt mountain.

The equity notes pay inter-



Eurotunnel may bring forward its planned first dividend, but chairman Patrick Ponsolle was 20 minutes late

on its annual interest bill.

The notes are due to be redeemed for shares on a one-for- 37 per cent of freight business. one basis by January 2004. But they have been trading at a sigunderlying value since they were issued. Eurotunnel is now offering to exchange them on the basis of 1.3 notes for one new share.

est at 4.45 per cent. If all 645 mil- last year to more than £670m as lion notes are redeemed early, Eurotunnel increased its share then Eurotunnel will save £40m of the Dover-Calais cross-channel market, capturing 52 per cent of all car passengers and

Income from its shuttle services was 87 per cent higher at nificant discount to their £210m, while the Eurostar passenger service linking London Paris and Brussels and the brought in £213m. Retailing, including duty-free, brought in

Turnover rose by 26 per cent £195m.

Flying Flowers chairman goes

FLYING FLOWERS, the troubled BY ANDREW VERITY mail-order plants company, yesterday announced the departure of its chairman, Walter Goldsmith, and three other directors as part of a radical boardroom shake-up.

Mr Goldsmith, a former director-general of the Institute of Directors, is to leave in spite of calling the prospect of his resignation "an absurd proposition" at the end of last year.

He will be replaced as chairman by Robert Norbury, a former chairman of investment banking at NatWest Markets. the definet investment arm of the high street bank

Tom Walker, company secretary and a director for seven years, will retire along with two non-executive directors, Kevin Morley and Ian Steven. The changes will take place at the company's next agm.

Flying Flowers saw its market value plummet last summer as its shares fell from 600p to 150p. The plunge followed two profits warnings in the space of two months. The shares rose yesterday from 215p to 217.5p

Behind the warnings were tumbling response rates to newspaper adverts for Gardening Direct, the key driver of Flying Flowers' growth. Flying Flowers admitted it also failed to manage the business properly during the summer months.

Paul Fraser, one of the biggest shareholders in the group, saw the paper value of his stake fall by £9.5m. After the two profits warnings, he joined the company to share the chief executive post with the company's founder, Tim

Rhodia tipped to enter battle for Albright with £470m bid

RHODIA, the French chemical By Francesco Guerrera group, is this week expected to enter the takeover battle for Japanes Albright & Wilson, its troubled UK rival, by trumping a £408m cash offer from Albemarle of the US with a bid of around

> Industry sources said Rhodia's top executives were last night finalising details of its offer with its bankers, and an atmouncement could come as early as today. The sources said Rhodia,

> advised by NM Rothschild and Warburg Dillon Read, was likely to pitch its cash counterbid at around 150p per share, a 13 per cent premium to Albemarle's 330p offer. A&W shares closes 2.5p down at 140p.

The Paris based group, ma-

drug company Rhône-Poulenc. is hoping that the counter-offer will be enough to sway Phillips & Drew, A&W's largest shareholder. The fund manager, which has a stake of about 24 per cent, last week refused to accept Albemarie's offer despite a recommendation from A&W, where Paul Rocheleau is chief executive. P&D believes that the US

group is not paying enough for A&W, a leading producer of chemicals for detergents and carbonated drinks with yearly sales of over £815m.

The company's sales and share price have been hit hard by the downturn in chemical markets and the strength of jority-owned by the French sterling, and a number of Mercury Asset Management, as potential hidders.



shareholders and analysts consider Albemarle's offer too low. P&D's stance was followed by M&G, which has a stake of over 5 per cent. However, Albemarie secured the support of

investor with a 12 per cent

A bid by Rhodia, which last year had sales of over 5.5bn euros (£3.3bn), would not surprise City analysts. The French company has been seen as a possible bidder for A&W since ast week when it revealed that it had held preliminary talks with the British company.

Industry experts believe that link between Rhodia and A&W would yield greater cost savings as both companies produce phosphates for the cleaning and drinks industries.

A Rhodia counteroffer could open the way for other bids, with the US group FMC and a private UK company backed by venture capitalist CVC tipped

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New England banks in \$16bn merger

THE CONSOLIDATION of the American banking industry, which reached fever pitch in 1998 with a tide of giant mergers, may be picking up again with news that two of New England's largest names, BankBoston and Fleet Finan-

wirth \$16bn. The merger will create the eighth largest bank in the US

and a powerhouse in the coun-

try's north-east. However, the

process of fusing the two banks

will mean the loss of more than

BY DAVID USBORNE

4,500 jobs, partly because of the elimination of overlapping branches. The city of Boston will feel the brunt of the changes. Analysts, many of whom had

been predicting a sale of Bank-Boston, perhaps to a foreign bank, saw sense in the

These banks should definitely do much better on a combined basis than standalone," commented Diana

Yates of AG Edwards. "They to close by year-end, is certain each other."

Fleet has grown quickly recently, acquiring, for example, the former US retail banking business of National Westminster. It also brings with it the discount brokerage Quick & Reilly. BankBoston boasts a wide

network of retail banks as well as the investment firm, Bankalso has a big presence in Argentina and Brazil. The deal, which is scheduled

don't have to compete with to come under the microscope of anti-trust watchdogs in Washington. To appease concern, the two banks are expected to shed some \$13bn in customers' deposits. The early response yester-

day on Wall Street was lukewarm. Shares in Fleet were off slightly in morning trading while those in BankBoston Boston Robertson Stephens, It were up only slightly. They remained well below the \$53 share value put on the bank by



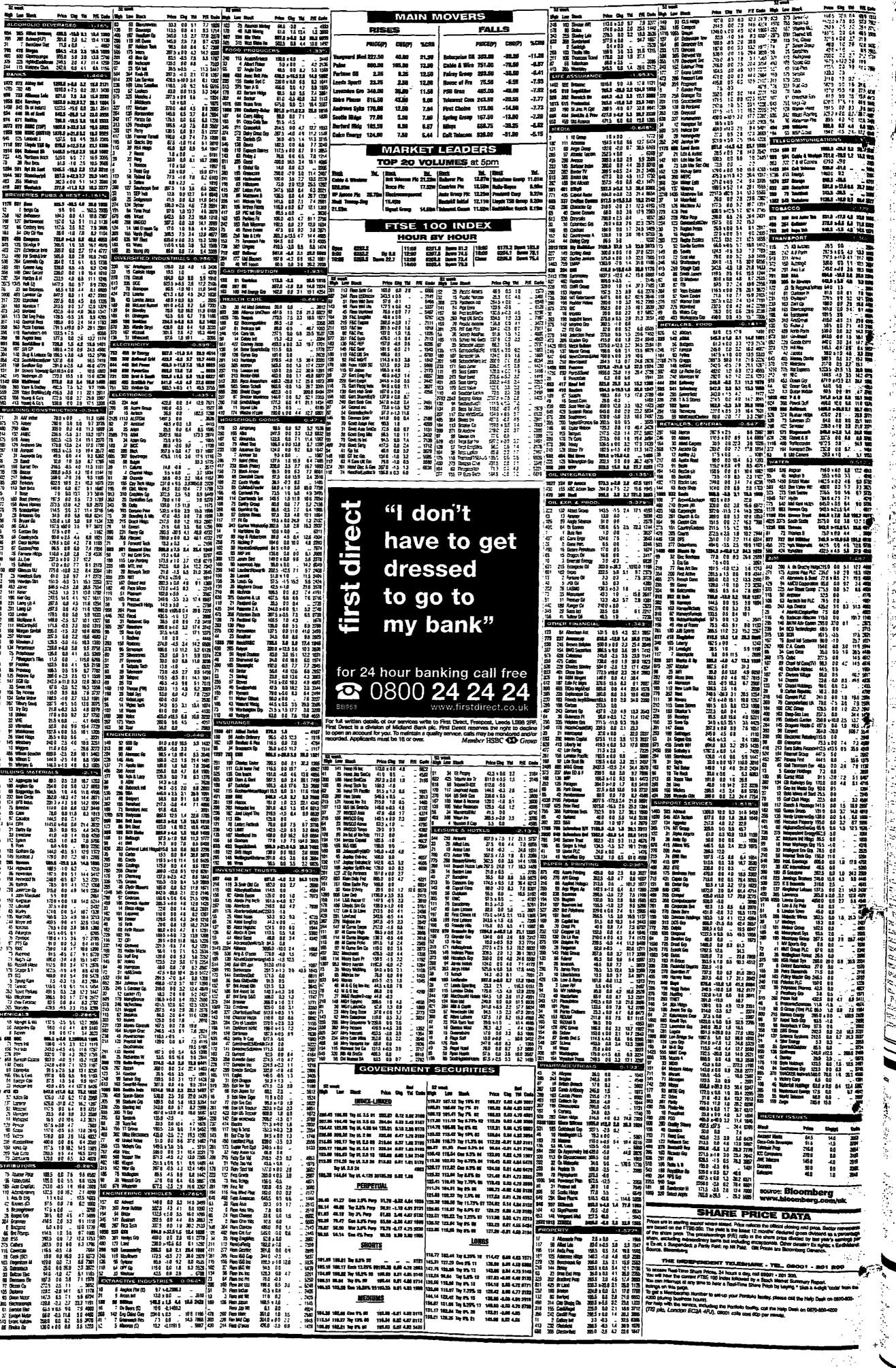
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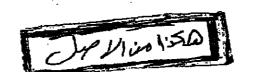
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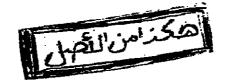
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THE INDEPENDENT



Veba's great escape upsets Footsie's day

THE GERMANS killed any hopes of the market ringing up gains. From the opening bell equities were in retreat unsettled by the sale by Veba, the German utility, of its 10.2 per

cent stake in Cable & Wireless. Telecoms led the retreat with Footsie ending 75.4 points off at 6,206.8. At one time it was down 122.8.

C&W tumbled 79.5p to 751p, Telewest Communications 20.5p to 243.5p, and Colt Telecom 51p to 939p. BT dropped

In their hurry to unload the C&W interest, the Germans accepted a 724.2p-a-share deal from ABN Amro, NM Rothschild and Cazenove. The trio went on to place the shares at 735p. With C&W closing at 830.5p on Friday, institutions found the yawning discount irresistible and clamoured to buy the 246 million shares.

Just why Veba was pre-pared to sell at a price so far below Friday's close is something of a mystery. Certainly it set alarm bells ringing, rousing nagging fears that the first crack had appeared in the

RICHARD THOMPSON. whose business career has included chairing the struggling first division football club Queens Park Rangers, has become chairman of Whitchurch. He intends to take the former food group into the. film and television industries.

He is buying the food operations – largely meat processing and pet-food The shares held at 32p. As a food group Whitchurch has struggled; its shares were 65p four years ago.

seemingly unstoppable telecoms charge. The sale also created doubts about C&W's prospects, with the Germans displaying an apparent lack of faith in the telecoms giant. stroved most of th

day's planned trading. Institutions were left short of cash. They had to find around £1.8bn with settlement due at the end of the week for their C&W shares, so cash they had provisionally earmarked for any other buying operations had to be transferred to their C&W coffers. Few would want to sell shares for special early delivery because of the extra charges involved. Much better, therefore, to put all available resources behind their bids in the C&W auction and delay any

With C&W's share turnover a massive 528.6 million, the day's volume almost touched 1.5 billion, one of the highest on record.

With so much attention centred on C&W the rest of the market played an almost inaudible second fiddle. The supporting indices lost their enthusiasm. The mid cap's remarkable 15-day winning streak came to an abrupt end with a 41.9 fall to 5,518.9; the small cap slipped 1.2 to 2.366.6.

The small cap is still being influenced by management buyouts. Housebuilder Cala jumped 50p to 157.5p as a bid recent decline following

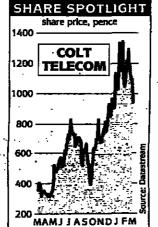
MARKET REPORT

of 1650 a share was mooted. In a variation on the buyout bandwagon Somie, up 100 at 800. seems likely to sell its fabrics business to management for around £850,000 and become a cash sell called Tarpan.

Fibernet, although ending talks with possible bidders, firmed 5p to 447.5p and SCi Entertainment ended 22p higher at 81.5p, although the company said it knew of no son for the advance.

Terranova, the foods group, held at 104.5p despite rejecting an offer of 125p (thought to be from Unigate), and volatile Tracker Network added another 70p to 580p following Friday's management buyout

First Choice, the holidays group, fell 14.5p to 173p after agreeing a merger with Knoni of Switzerland. Talk of a possible German counter-offer from Preussag continues to be heard. There were vague re-



ports of an Airtours deal, with the shares firm at 507.5p. Constructor Bandt firmed 1p to 32p on bid hopes.

London International, the condom maker where bid talks are on, firmed 2p to 153p in twoway trading. The shares have been unloved since Safeskin, the US group touted as the most likely bidder, posted a shock profits warning. Manchester United firmed

9p to 240p, a peak, on weekend suggestions that profits from pay-as-you-view television could force BSkyB to increase its bid, currently under Westminster consideration.

Psion, the hand-held computer group, was one of the day's best performers, jumping 105p to 860p on reports that it is moving into mini-notebook computers with IBM selling the equipment in the US; a new trading alliance by its Symbian joint venture was another bull-

Tomkins, on its share buyback, fell 10p to 224.5p, but Reed International, after its

ground, up 25.5p to 525.5p. PowerGen, ahead of analyst meetings this week, rose 13p to 683p. Supermarkets, ruffled in recent weeks by the alleged

price war, perked up on hopes that the Office of Fair Trading report will be less draconian than expected. Enterprise Oil had a shaky time, off 38.25p to 303p. The

market is uneasy about the possibility of the planned union with Lasmo failing to materialise. The sale of 1.2 million shares by Mercury Asset Management, part of Merrill Lynch, increased the doubt factor

HW, a recruitment group, followed Comorate Services with a profits warning and fell 37.50 to 82.50; Superscane, an IT group, dropped 41p to 149p on a warning Queens Moat Houses,

once seemingly destined for the corporate graveyard, was little changed at 26.5p after Merrill Lynch upgraded its advice to accumulate. The ending of the hotel chain's interestpayment holiday will lower profits over the next two years

PETRA DIAMONDS, with interests in Angola, held at 7L5p. Seymour Pierce bas become the group's stockbroker, replacing IA Pritchard, which appears to have abandoned its corporate operations.

Petra now has Gold

Fields of South Africa as a shareholder. In exchange for shares, it acquired the diamond interests of Gold Fields, which cover rights over 10 properties in South Africa. Petra shares topped 150p last summer: they were floated at 30p by IA Pritchard.

but "good management is provely improving the structure and position of the

Viridian, the former Northern freland Electricity, was litchanged at 693.5p as Warburg Dillon Read increased its target price by 50p to 800p. Shire Pharmaceuticals, after Friday's profits surge, rose 43p to 516.5p, and pub chain JD Wetherspoon frothed a further 15.5p to 2730 on its results.

BATM Advanced Communications jumped 32p to 2950 ahead of a presentation at stockbroker Shore Capital. Highbury House Communications joined the Internet party, climbing 4p to 17.25p. The company has launched a joint venture to explore various Internet publishing initiatives.

Oxford Biomedica, a genetherapy group, rose 9p to 27p, apparently on indications that Colin Blackbourn had acquired shares. He gained a reputation as a small company investor with AromaScan, a recent success. The shares have climbed from 1.75p in September to 17.5p (up 0.5p) after being revamped. He claims Oxford, raising cash through a rights issue, has nine promising products in development.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.49bn SEAQ TRADES: 94,310 GILTS INDEX: 115.23-0.05

O/N Marginal4.50% O/N Facility 2.00%

Tough markets set to slow Laporte down

LAPORTE, the speciality chemicals group, yesterday hinted at a slowdown in its record-breaking growth in 1999, with profits set to be hit by tough markets and a flurry of one-off charges.

The company, whose chemicals are used in toothpaste, paints and condoms, said the abolition of advance corporation tax, last year's sale of its hygiene division and sterling's continued strength would wipe around 5 per cent, or £5m, from this year's profits. The chief executive, Jim

Leng, said that 1999 would be a "tough year" after a three-year unbroken rum of record profits. earnings and margins. He warned that the company's problems could be compounded by difficult conditions in Far Eastern markets. "For the coming year, we expect no assistance from external factors or

from the major economies in

which we operate," he said. However, Mr Leng claimed that the radical restructuring of the past three years - which transformed Laporte into a focused speciality chemicals business and caused the loss of almost 2,000 jobs - would see the company through 1999. Profits growth should pick up again in 2000.

Mr Leng's comments came as Laporte beat City expectations with a 1 per cent advance in 1998 pre-tax profits to £134m on

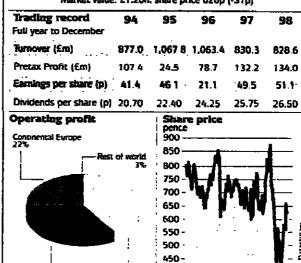
turnover up by 2 per cent to £710.4m. The results received an £18.1m boost from Inspec, the UK speciality chemicals company bought last year for £600m.

The four-month contribution from Inspec led to a near-doubling in profits at Laporte's speciality organics business. Strong growth in the division - which makes chemicals for medicines such as Nurofen and the antiimpotence drug Viagra - offset a profit decline in the electronics business, which was hit hard by a slump in the market for semiconductors.

City analysts said the results proved that Mr Leng's threeyear strategy of selling underperforming subsidiaries while moving away from cut-throat cess is its strong margins, which last year rose to 16.7 per cent from 11.4 per cent in 1997.

were wrongfooted by a sharp downturn in global markets, Laporte has weathered the storm, thanks to its exposure to high-margin industries. Producing sophisticated chemicals for pharmaceuticals and life sciences companies pays more than churning out commodity products, and Laporte's margins are among the best in Europe.

While many of its UK peers



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ulative interest but also good

fell by 31p to 626p on profit-tak-

now on around 12 times 1999

earnings predictions of around

£136m. Mr Evans says this is a

discount to many UK and Eu-

ropean competitors, including

to do is to make positive noises

and find that a recovery is de-

However, with shares trading

on a multiple of less than 12

Laporte shares yesterday

growth prospects."

ciality organics division is paramount if Laporte is to achieve its target of 17.5 per cent mar-

Laporte's good performance triggered rumours of a ingafter a heady run. They are takeover bid from Clariant, the Swiss giant. Mr Leng yesterday declined to comment, but analysts said bid speculation could prop up the share price.

Martin Evans, head of re-ICI and Clariant, and Laporte search at stockbroker Suthershould be bought despite the

rule over merger candidates By Francesco Guerrera

Bovis runs

BOVIS HOMES, the housebuilder spun off from transport group P&O a year ago, is considering a merger with a listed rival in a bid to expand its presence in the North of Eng-

The chief executive, Malcolm Harris, yesterday said the company had held informal talks with several mediumsized bousebuilders in the past year but had still not find the perfect partner: "We have spent the last year talking to a number of companies, but we will only merge if it added value for shareholders in the long term."

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Mr Harris said Bovis wanted an agreed merger and was not prepared to mount a hostile bid. If a friendly link-up did not materialise. Boyis could spend its £100m cash pile to buy an unquoted regional house-

The ideal target would have operations in the Midlands, the North and the South-west to complement Bovis's strength in the South, the chief executive

The company's hand in any merger talks was strengthened by yesterday's good maiden results. Bovis posted a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £45m despite a 10 per cent fall in completions to 2,303. Tight cost control and a rise in selling prices pushed up margins to 19.3 per cent from 15.4 per cent in 1997.

The results boosted Bovis shares, which rose by 12p to 273.5p, highest since their 200p flotation.

Mr Harris predicted strong growth in the housing market this year. He said buyers were enjoying the "best market conditions for 25 years" with falling interest rates and rising personal earnings. Mark Hake, building ana-

lyst at Merrili Lynch, said Bovis's four-year landbank one of the industry's longest would help it exploit the turnaround in the market. The landbank would limit the risk of a sharp fall in margins, boosting the stock's defensive qualities.

Mr Hake rates the shares, on around eight times 1999 forecast earnings of £51m, a "buy", noting that despite yesterday's rise they are still at a 10 per cent

LAPORTE: AT A GLANCE Market value: £1.2bn, share price 626p (-31p)

Continued growth in the spelands, said: "For shareholders, expected slowdown in 1999. First profit fall clips Fairey's wings

FAIREY, the electronics group, disappointed yesterday by reporting its first fall in profits in its 10-year history and warning that recovery is not likely until the end of the year.

Shares in Fairey fell 30.5p to 293.5p as it posted underlying pre-tax profits of £30.5m, down 40 per cent on comparable figures for the previous year. John Poulter, Fairey chief ex-

ecutive, said the drop was largely the result of the slump in the semiconductor market, which was hit by overcapacity. Fairey's semiconductor businesses, accounting for 15 per cent of total revenues, saw sales drop by 35 per cent and profits disappear Fairevalso suffered from the

effects of the Asian economic crisis. Sales to the Asia-Pacific region fell by 24 per cent, while

BY L'ETER THAL LARSEN

the knock-on effects hit demand in the company's main market, the United States. "US companies saw exports going down and import substitution going up," said Mr Poulter. Fairey has cut 329 workers, 11

per cent of its workforce, a move likely to yield annual savings of £9m. However, Mr Poulter pointed out that a recovery in profits depended heavily on a recovery in the semiconductor industry. Fairey is confident that, with

the growing use of chips in everything from mobile phones to cars, recovery will take place. Organic growth in this industry is only a matter of timing," said divisional director Hans Nilsson.

However, analysts were cautions, pointing out that Fairey's



John Poulter: Chip sales slump hit Fairey profits

relatively short order books made it hard to predict the timing of a recovery. Charterhouse Tilbey analyst Michael Blogg has pencilled in full-year profits of £35m. "The last thing they want

times forward earnings, they look cheap. Analysts point to Fairey's strong market positions, as reflected in gross profit margins of around 50 per cent.

layed." he said.

This raises the prospect that a larger group could pounce before the shares have a chance to recover. Obvious predators include US giants Emerson Electric and Honeywell, which would be likely to extract cost savings. Either way, Fairey shares

look unlikely to fall much further. "For a company of this quality they are a steal," said Mr Blogg. "But people are going to be wary until they see some evi-

nouncing the chemicals com-

pany's respectable annual

figures. "Everything you need

to take on holidays contains

Laporte chemicals," he ex-

plained to bemused reporters.

For instance, OralB tooth-

paste, cough medicine, con-

doms and Nivea cream for

sunburn all contain Laporte

a bit, the company also sup-

plies a vital ingredient for Vi-

WE ALL want Government de-

partments to operate as effi-

ciently as possible, but the

Inland Revenue might have

cut costs just a bit too ag-

gressively over last week's

It sent out a hefty batch of

The package thumped onto

our desks a total of three days

late, and with "Underpaid -

agra to Pfizer, the impotency

And if the holiday is flagging

ingredients, he said.

drug's manufacturer.

A cut too far

mood yesterday after an- stamped on it by the Post Office. Or is this just a subtle method of shifting the tax burden? I think we should be

Stepping down

THE SQUARE MILE was on tenterhooks last night to find out what big new media and leisure job Keith Harris is about to take, after he said that he is stepping aside as chief executive of HSBC Investment Bank after only five years at the bank.

Mr Harris will continue to use his contacts to refer work to HSBC. His responsibilities for corporate finance will be taken over by Dider Stoessel. his current deputy, who joined HSBC in 1997 after a long spell at Merrill Lynch.

Mr Harris's other merchant banking departments will report directly to Stephen Green, chairman of HSBC In-

E-mail: j.willcock@indepen-

In a league of his own

IT WILL be quite an adjustment for Allan MacDonald. going from managing director of British Aerospace's interests in Asia and Africa to being chief executive of Celtic, the famous Glasgow football club.

A lifelong Celtic fan, Mr MacDonald said yesterday: "It is a great honour and responsibility to be given the opportunity to represent an institution of Celtic's stature."

Celtic has just fought off two unsolicited bids from a group headed by Kenny Dalglish and Jim Kerr (of Simple Minds fame), and its current chairman and managing director, Fergus McCann, is reducing his involvement.

Biotech moves

MALCOLM FALLEN is giving up his job as finance director of the troubled drugs develto return to his first love,

PEOPLE AND Business

By John WILLCOCK

telecommunications. Ħе joined British Biotech from BT, where he was finance director of the personal communications division. Mr Fallen submitted his

resignation at a board meeting yesterday, so the board accepted it and issued an announcement. They have appointed Tony Weir, currently British Biotech's company secretary and finance director of the pharmaceuticals subsidiary, to succeed Mr

The legal row between the company and its former head-of clinical trials, Andrew Millar, is set to reach court his summer. British Biotech is suing Dr Miller for talking to shareholders about drugs oper British Biotech in order trials without board approval, while Dr Millar is counter-

suing for breach of contract

Capital gain STEVE VINSON, a native of Alabama, is leaving his current iob as head of risk at Daiwa Se-

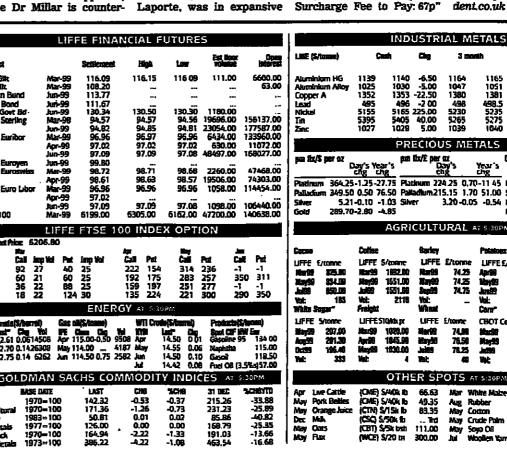
curities in New York to cross the pond to London, to do an equivalent job for Barclays Capital. Mr Vinson will report to Robert Diamond, chief executive, in this newly created

JIM LENG, chief executive of

Budget. ian, arrives later this month to head up the Barclays group. Budget press releases to us with just a 26p stamp on it.

Right formula

role. Mike O'Neill, a Californ-



FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES 8.7903 9.698 2.8908 478.14 12.553 1.1644 2862.6 189.83 6.2174

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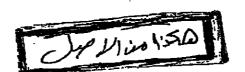
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THE INDEPENDENT Tuesday to March 1999

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SPORT

Football: The French capital has a magnificent stadium that hosted the World Cup final but no team to call it home

Paris searches for team to support

JOHN LICHFIELD

HERE IS a tale of two cities. The first has six top-rank football clubs. including one which has no home stadium. The second has two magnificent stadiums but only one First Division club. Next season it may

Football in the English capital is booming, with French immigrants Wenger, Petit, Vieira, Anelka Desailly, Leboeuf and Ginola - lead ing the way. Football in the French capital, the capital of the world ampions, is failing, as ever

On Wednesday of last week, however, something strange happened: omething which has not happened for more than 40 years. There were two big football matches in Paris on

Paris St-Germain, the wealthiest club in France, the 13th wealthiest club in the world, scrambled a 0-0 draw before 40,000 people at the Parc des Princes. The result was greeted by local fans, players and press as a turning point. Some of the highly paid stars in red and blue seemed to have grown backbones, ending a sequence of jellyfish-like performances which had reduced their perennially under-achieving club to the shame of an end-of-season relegation struggle.

At the same time, at the magnificent Stade de France, just north of Paris proper in St-Denis, the second club in greater Paris, Red Star, French "club of the 70s", St-Etienne. Despite a defeat which brought relegation to the national league (in effect the Third Division) a step closer this match - the first league game held in the new stadium - was hailed as a breakthrough by the Red

The attendance, 45,000, was the highest ever in a French Second Division game. It would, Red Star argued, restore their status as the leading candidate to fill the embarrassing and expensive vacancy for a "resident club" at the stadium where France won the World Cup (and the Welsh rugby union side defeat any French team).

As often in the long, bumbling history of Parisian football, both turning points may prove to be illusory square passes rather than shots on

Within three days of that 0-0 triumph. PSG had fired their coach. for the second time this season. To lose one coach in modern football is Nigeria, Christian Worns from Gernormal to lose two in a season is

Alain Giresse, the former international midfielder, was dismissed as their coach in October for failing to challenge for the title with his team



the team with defenders and deground, the Camp des Loges in the

Saturday," they seemed to be saying.

The incident provoked a player revolt, led by the former international, and former West Ham. goalkeeper Bernard Lama. He accused the imported stars, especially the team captain, Simone, of exaggerating injuries and being terested only in their next contract.

Lama described Simone as a "Milan reserve" and a "diva". That is "diva", not "diver". He presumably meant that Simone was an overweight, overpaid Italian, who constantly bleats about the cruel fates which have marooned him in a failing football club.

On Saturday, Jorge was fired and

shows (left) on Mikaël Madar, the former Everton striker Paris suburbs, and hurled a couple replaced by his deputy, Philippe is no object but the effect is always of tear-gas grenades before being Bergeroo. PSG are five points clear ejected. "You make us cry every of the relegation zone with eight games remaining. Several of their ond Division beckons unless Bergeroo, part of Aimé Jacquet's coaching

team at the World Cup, can rebuild

The French government has been trying for months to find a club that will move into the Stade

de France, the newest and most spectacular stadium in Europe. Despite being the wealthiest

club in France Paris St-Germain have found themselves in a relegation battle and the strain

the team's morale, starting with a difficult visit to Auxerre on Saturday. What is wrong with PSG? They had a brief purple patch in the early 1990s; they won both the French Cup and League Cup last year. But the club - created in 1971 to provide a resident club for the Parc des Princes, heavily subsidised by the city of Paris, owned by the pay-TV

lacked history, roots and soul. Thanks to the television connection, money to buy good players

company Canal Plus - has always

like cut flowers stuck into sand: the team blooms for a while and rapid-

take this as further evidence of the dangers of being owned by a TV company. But the PSG malaise precedes Canal Plus ownership. It seems to be almost spiritual.

Paris, unlike Manchester or London or Rome - unlike Marseilles or Bordeaux - is not a football city. The support for PSG, averaging more than 40,000 a game, is surprisingly loyal, mostly middle class, mostly white. There has actually been a slight increase in gates this season (as there has, to record levels, in France as a whole, thanks to the

World Cup victory). In Paris, however, you never have

breathes its football club (or clubs) as do the people of Manchester or London or Milan or Marseilles Parisians are more likely to be talking about movies or food or sex or shoes. As the American singer Tom Waits, once observed: "Paris just isn't a man's town"

What hope then of manufacturing a second Paris top-flight club to occupy the Stade de France* (PSG refused to move because they would have lost their subsidies from Paris town hall). The consortium which runs the stadium gets £7m compensation from the government for every year that there is no resident football club playing there. For months, the French government has been desperate to find, or create, a club big enough to occupy the newest and loveliest stadium in

Red Star seemed once to be the certain choice. But their president is now under investigation for fraud: they have slumped to the bottom of the Second Division; and their fan base is no more than 4,000 to 5,000. The 45,000 who saw Wednesday's experimental" game were mostly St-Etienne fans and locals taking advantage of cheap ticket prices to watch a game – any game – in an already mythical stadium.

And now Red Star have a serious rival – L'Olympique Noisy-le-Sec 93, a local Third Division club. Noisy-le-Sec is not one of the great names of European football. It is a measure of the sports ministry's desperation that its candidature is being taken increasingly seriously: as if Brentford were being encouraged to give up Griffin Park and set up home at Wemblev.

The club's director, Jamel Sandjaki, is of North African origin. He believes that Noisy-le Sec can become the team of the Paris suburbs: in other words the club to tap the talent and the support of tens of thousands of Zidane and Anelka "wannabes", the football-mad, African and Arab-origin kids of the banlieue, who mostly despise PSG.

Several large companies have promised to invest in Noisy, if they move to the Stade. There is a problem, however, in the background hurks Sandjaki's friend, Bernard Tapie, the disgraced former busimatch-fixing owner of Olympique Marseilles.

The possibility of Red Star and Noisy sharing the Stade de France has also been mooted. No rapid solution is likely, unless...

Surely, London has one football club too many. With the rocky road to Dublin barred, could Sam Hammam not be persuaded to move Wimbledon to the Stade de France? Paris St-Germain once had a team in the Rugby Super League (another PSG failure). Why not Paris-Stade de France (the club formerly known as Wimbledon) playing in the

*Australian fads are bad for progress of England backs

ceived several letters from England rugby union supporters claiming I am less than generous to the national side. Some write in sorrow, some in anger, some in amused toleration. All are united in their conviction that I am not wholly fair to the team as it has developed under Clive Woodward. I believe what Woodward says

about wanting to develop a new kind f rugby, play a 15-man game, compete effectively with the southern hemisphere – though countries from that half of the globe, New Zealand in particular, have no hesitation in playing 10-, nine-, or even eight-man rugby when it suits their purposes so to do.

This, indeed, is the criticism of England's two wins so far this season: that, when the going gets rough, the English forwards stuff the ball up their jumpers and wait for their strength, and the passage of time, to convey them to the line. Or, as Dr Johnson observed of Gulliver's Travels: "When once you have thought of big men and little men, it is very easy to do all the rest."

To be fair to Woodward, he is less obsessed with size than both his predecessors. Geoff Cooke refused to pick Neil Back regularly because he thought he was too small, though he added - which cannot have been of much consolation to Back - that this Quinnell of Wales and maybe Eric a long, accurate pass to his outside-



from Italy, "Jay-Jay" Okocha from

many). For good measure, PSG also

The new coach, Artur Jerge from

Portugal, began well but since the

winter break PSG have not won a

game. In recent matches, he packed

fired their president.

Watkins

was not the poor lad's fault. Jack Rowell picked a back row of three No 8s, then Ben Clarke on the open side.

Woodward, by contrast, has elected the Leicester flanker con-periment. sistently and preferred a back row of three No 7s, for Lawrence Dallagiio has often played in that position. He has also had the bright idea. so far abundantly justified, of playing Tim Rodber, formerly a No 6 or 8, in the second row.

There remains some doubt how good the England forwards really are. Two years ago, when their composition was only slightly different, it was confidently asserted that they would take most of the places in the Lions' pack. In the event the Test team fielded two Irishmen and a Scotsman in the front row and an Irishman as principal jumper. Scott more on his primary duty - to give

Miller of Ireland, too, would have been in the back row had they not ately on frolics of his own. heen impeded by injury.

fensive midfielders, but still lost by

The nadir came last Saturday

when PSG lost 2-0 to Montoellier in

the League Cup, ending their last

chance of appearing in Europe next

season. On Monday a mob of PSG

fans invaded the club's training

two or three goals.

Would the story be very different today? I shall reserve my selection of a Lions XV to a later column, after the Five Nations has finished.

In any case, a pack cannot be judged by the number that will be promoted to another, superior lot of forwards. They form a unit. That is why, if I were Woodward, I would take a chance on the entire Leicester pack, apart from retaining Rodber in the second row and playing Dallaglio at No 6. This would be harsh for Jason Leonard and Richard Hill. but I do not suppose for a moment that Woodward will make the ex-

There is something else. In the second half of the Scotland match, about 20 metres out and in front of the Scottish posts, the England scrum were wheeled three or four times - unless, of course, they were doing the wheeling, in which case the move was equally profitless.

Yet it is unfair to blame England's forwards for the distinct lack of sparkle that has been apparent this season. Kyran Bracken is such a live wire that he is in danger of giving electric shocks to all those in his immediate vicinity, including his own side. I wish he would concentrate

But to whom is Bracken going to make this service available? That is the perennial English question. Paul Grayson is out, injured, for the rest of the season. I assume Woodward will choose Mike Catt in his place and leave Jonny Wilkinson settled at inside centre. Outside him, in Jeremy Guscott, England have perhaps their greatest centre of the post-war period, rivalled only by Jeff Butterfield, Lewis Cannell and David Duckham. The aim should be to get the ball quickly to Guscott in the most propitious circumstances for him.

It will not be achieved if the outside-half lies flat, eyeball to eyeball with the opposition. Grayson was praised everywhere when he played in this way before Christmas. I cannot understand why. Neil Jenkins played similarly for Wales in the first two lost matches but reverted to an older style in Paris.

In even older times coaches would compel their outside half and threequarters to stand at an angle of 30 degrees to the touchline. This was absurd. But the modern fad for playing flat is equally if not more so. It is a fashion as foolish as the one for kicking to touch instead of going for goal, having a scrum or taking a tap penalty. Woodward acquired an obsession with lying flat after a sojourn in Australia. He should now get rid of it.

SPORT ON THE INTERNET

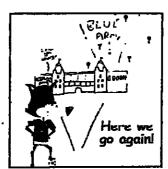
THERE COMES a time in the season, say about a week before their team is due to play in whatever the League Cup is called these days, when fans feel more than the usual need to bone up on the opposition. One way is to hang out in pubs frequented by rival supporters, but for Spurs and Leicester tans anticipating Sunday's Worthington Cup final at Wembley, the Web is a safer place for spying. Leicester City's official Website

does everything that fans have come to expect from official sites. There is a chat room to give fans an opportunity to air their voices. There are authoritative news reports, more information about tickets and different membership schemes, video clips of the son's highlights, free live Web radio commentary on match days, merchandise and links to a building society so you can save up for your next season ticket.

It also advertises job vacancies at Filbert Street: last week they were looking for a retail sales assistant. Even if they lose on Sunday, Martin O'Neill's job will probably not be advertised online.

The Spurs official site does a similar job and looks good. No jobs, though. No chat area either, which makes it feel as though it is a channel for disseminating official information rather than a forum for discussion. The media watch section provides official club responses to articles in the press so that "supporters are not misled by uninformed speculation".

The club offers Internet ac-



colours, and live radio commentary for members only. Unusually for an official site, the e-mail discussion list is handled by the club. Having it on site makes it easy for lurkers to join and eavesdrop.

The main unofficial Spurs site largely mirrors the official one with good news coverage, but instead of merchandise it has online chat and humour sections for light relief.

titled Forfoxsake. It has the feel of a fanzine, albeit a high quality Official sites shy away from

inviting joke and cartoon sub-

missions about the foibles of local rivals. Judging by the cartoon

here about Derby fans, this is probably wise. There's a lot of hard facts and stats, as well as scurrilous humour. Both camps seem optimistic about their chances of picking up the silverware on Sunday. To get the bookies perspective The Sporting Life Betting Shop is the

place to see what odds are being offered. Access to the latest prices is gained by following the soccer and Worthington Cup links from the main page. Those who want to forget the

exits of their own clubs had better stay away from the Worthington Cup 1998-1999 page, where all the results so far are tabulated. This site will become Leicester's e-mail list has its a no-go area for either Leicester own unofficial site, the inevitably or Spurs fans in the near future.

SITE ADDRESSES

Leicester City Official Website http://www.lcfc.co.uk/ Spurs Official Website http://www.spurs.co.uk/ Tottenham Hotspur Unofficial Homepage http://www.thuh.com/ http://www.forfoxsake.com/ Sporting Life Betting Shop http://www.sporting-life.com/sub/80808011=2316/betting/ Worthington Cup 1998-1999 http://sunsite.tut.fi./rec/riku/soccer_data/cup.eng98.html arren

Everton search ın vain for video

DON HUTCHISON'S attempt to clear his name after being sent off for elbowing Martin Keown looks doomed to failure because there is no video evidence to support an appeal.

Neither Everton, who have their own television station, nor the BBC Match of the Day cameras captured the incident during Saturday's Premiership encounter An Everton spokesman said: "We've looked at all the angles and there's nothing that will help. No camera captured the incident fully."

Hutchison is likely to have the support of Keown if he does decide to appeal. The Arsenal defender said: "He did go up with his arm but there didn't seem much in it." However, the Everton man faces a three-match ban, ruling him out Liverpool and home games against Sheffield Wednesday

and Coventry City. A Football Association spokesman said: "Any appeal would need to be backed up with new evidence for us to consider asking the referee to look again at his decision."

The FA is also set to stage the Graeme Le Saux-Robbie Fowler misconduct hearing after England's European Championship qualifier against Poland. The chances of the hearing being staged before the Wembley match on 27 March are now remote, so the two players - if they are chosen for international duty as expected - will have to spend next week together with a cloud still hanging over them, following their altercation during the Premiership game at Stamford Bridge on 27 February.

The Scottish Football Assothe Rangers manager £1.000 the end of the season.

FRANCE'S THREE Uefa Cup

quarter-finalists face difficult

second legs tonight and, in the

case of Lyon, a virtually im-

Bologna 3-0, Bordeaux and

spectively. The fourth match

sees Roma also trying to over-

turn a 2-1 deficit, at home to

Atletico Madrid.

possible task. While Lyon trail in vital match practice as they

By Alan Nixon

and "severely censured" him for his touchline behaviour in a Premier League fixture against Dunfermline Athletic at East End Park last month.

Advocaat looks set to sign his compatriot Michael Mols, the £4m-rated Utrecht striker, who arrived in Glasgow for talks yesterday. Sheffield Wednesday are also chasing the Dutch international.

The Liverpool midfielder Danny Murphy is remaining on loan at his former club, Crewe Alexandra, for the rest of the season - despite interest from Ipswich Town, Another First Division side, Norwich City, want to sign Leeds United's Scottish of the Easter Saturday derby at striker Derek Lilley on loan for the rest of the campaign.

The Norwich forward, Keith O'Neill, is set to leave Carrow Road. The Republic of Ireland international is talking terms with Middlesbrough, after the two clubs agreed an undisclosed fee.

Watford have signed Guy Whittingham from Sheffield Wednesday on loan for the rest of the season. The experienced striker has scored seven goals in nine games for Portsmouth during a loan spell at Fratton Park, but Alan Ball's club were unable to pay his wages for the next couple of months.

Allan MacDonald, 47, was yesterday confirmed as Celtic's next chief executive. The Scottish champions have recruited MacDonald from his present post as managing director of British Aerospace interests in Asia and Africa. He will succeed Fergus McCann when the latciation has fined Dick Advocaat, ter steps down from the post at

Marseilles at the top of the

look to secure a berth in the

Marseilles take slim 2-1 leads semi-finals for the second time Juan Veron, superb in Parma's

to Parma and Celta Vigo re- in three years. Ali Benarbia's 2-1 home Serie A victory over

weeks ago. The Moroccan play-



him, Eusebio, the club's greatest past player, looks like a man in despair

Souness takes the flak

PORTUGAL

GRAEME SOUNESS might be well advised to start running off a few copies of his CV. The former Liverpool and Rangers manager may not be coach of Benfica for much longer.

Sourcess needed a police escort to leave the Stadium of Light following his side's 3-0 home defeat to Boavista, one of their rivals for the Portuguese title, on Sunday. The majority of the 80,000

crowd in Lisbon had waved white handkerchiefs at Souness in a familiar gesture of contempt towards the end of the game, while chanting for him to be sacked. The former Scotland midfielder then waited two and a half hours to leave the ground by a side exit, shielded from around 100 angry fans by two police cars with sirens wailing. The match was a tough in-

troduction to Portuguese foot-

ing on an assistant referee's

French League, are pinning foot and has been carrying out could be decisive as Parma

The Argentinian playmaker

to keep him in peak form.

Bordeaux, back ahead of domestic suspension for stamp-

their hopes on a player lacking a special training programme

only match in more than a Bari on Saturday is the main

month was the first leg two man standing in Bordeaux's

maker is serving a three-match strikers Hernan Crespo or

Bordeaux and Marseilles lead French assault

AROUND THE WORLD

EDITED BY RUPERT METCALF

ball for two of the coach's recent signings, Gary Charles from Aston Villa and Steve Harkness from Liverpool, who were both making their debuts.

Harkness was Benfica's best player and Charles came closest to scoring, but Souness has come under increasing criticism during his time with the club for buying British instead of Portuguese players. His insistence on occasionally using a long-ball game is also unpopular.

seek a treble of League. Italian

to their attacking tactics with a

Fabrizio Ravanelli, Christophe

Dugarry and Florian Maurice

GOLF

Cup and Uefa Cup.

Souness was at work as normal yesterday, holding a behindclosed doors training session. In typically defiant mood, he said: We're in third place in the table, just three points behind second place and four behind leaders Porto, yet there's still nine games to go and 27 points to play for.

"I'm feeling cool and relaxed. I've a Scottish mentality, not a Latin mentality, which eans I will not give up."

Souness has also been backed by Benfica's president, João Vale e Azevedo, who was forced to pacify the furious fans after the game. He said: "I am not going to make an emotional decision. I know we did not play well, but things will remain as they are."

JAPAN

A SMALL piece of Japanese Saturday when the match be- and February.

Atletico Madrid are pinning

their whole season, dismal on

the domestic front, on the Uefa

victory came in the middle of a

Crespo's late first-leg goal shell in defence," Dugarry said

Marseilles also plan to stick Cup. Their first leg 2-1 home

three-pronged strike force of run of seven Spanish League

know how to play for a draw. It's with a 3-1 Serie A win over

SPORTING DIGEST

tween JEF United Ichihara and Urawa Reds finished 0-0 - the first drawn game in the sevenyear history of the J-League.

From the inaugural year in 1993 to last season, the league used penalty shoot-outs to determine a winner if teams were level after 30 minutes of "golden goal" extra time. But officials decided to scrap the shoot-outs this season and award both teams one point for a draw after 120 minutes. Fans had to wait until only the second round of fixtures this term for the first draw to be recorded.

AFRICA

GHANA AND Nigeria will cohost the 2000 African Nations' Cup, the African Football Confederation announced yester-day. They replace Zimbabwe, who failed to meet stadia and financial targets, in staging the football history was made on 16-team event next January

fielders in Italy.

buckling manner."

Enrico Chiesa at any moment. not in our nature to go into a Bologna on Saturday, will look for inspiration to Francesco Totti, one of the best young mid-

Scotland stand by status quo jowi

IF FIVE NATIONS' Championships were decided on loyalty rather than pace and power. Jim Telfer would mark his final Highland fling as Scotland's coach with a Grand Slam.

Telfer yesterday announced his 22-man squad for this weekend's delicately poised Celtic set-to with Ireland at Murrayfield. Despite the return to form and fitness of some obvious World Cup candidates -Jamie Mayer and Matthew Proudfoot among them - he decided to stand by the players who gave the national fortunes such a significant leg up in the early matches of the tourna-

Indeed, Telfer has invested so much faith in the status quo that only Gary Armstrong, his captain, has succeeded in gatecrashing the party responsible for the friendly victory over Italy in Edinburgh a fortnight ago. The Newcastle scrum-half missed the Azzurri date because of elbow trouble, but fears that he had broken a bone proved unfounded and he is ready to reclaim the No 9 shirt from Ian Fairley.

Mayer, the much-discussed Edinburgh Reivers centre, has been in blinding form with the second-string Scotland A team of late, but the 21-year-old newcomer loses out to the more seasoned John Leslie-Alan Tait partnership on this

Similarly, Proudfoot has failed to break back into the front row, despite a physical frame that almost constitutes a front row on its own. Telfer seems certain to stick with Paul Burnell at tight head, with the outstanding Tom Smith at loose head and Dave Hilton of Bath on the bench.

"Having a settled squad makes a tremendous difference because it means we can get to work on the training ground straight away." explained Telfer, who has never been a great one for wasting precious preparation time on unnecessary intro-"There are things we need

to work on. If we are honest very happy with the overall performance against Italy. Most urgently, we need to get more shape into our forward play."

Given Italy's imminent arrival at the top table of Euroat home to Bologna. The pean rugby - come next French club's coach, Bernard February, they will be loading their bullets alongside the tra-Lacombe, said: "If we score in games in which they have the first 20 minutes, that can ditional big guns in the first Six taken only one point. Roma, make them worry. But we Nations' Championship - it will in Galicia. "Frankly, we don't who came out of a long slump mustn't attack in a swashbe fascinating to see how Graham Henry's buoyant Wales

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

team deals with them in Treviso on Saturday. The former Auckland coach

is taking nothing for granted making just one change to the XV that prevailed in such glorious technicolor over France 10 days ago.

Gareth Thomas, a focure in recent Weish line-ups when fully fit, comes in on the right wing for Matthew Robinson whose defensive frailties were exposed by the Tricolores in Paris. It will be Thomas' first
Test start since the pre-Christ. mas victory over Argentina and his strike-rate - 14 tries in \$1 internationals - makes him a clear first choice, despite Robinson's qualities as an elusive attacking runner.

The Welsh bench shows several changes, however. Neil . Boobyer, the utility back from Llanelli, and Richmond's Nick Waine take their places among the substitute threequarters while Darren Morris, the Swansea prop. and Geraint Lewis, the highly rated Pontypridd flanker, are drafted in as forward reinforcements.

as forward reinforcements.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (Pive National Championship vireland, Marringfield, Sagurday): Backs: G Armstrong (News). It Pairing (Edmburgh Revers). I Pairing (Edmburgh Revers). I Pairing (Edmburgh Revers). S Longstaff (Glugote Caledonand). G Metacalle (Schagote Caledonand). C Marray (Edmburgh Revers). G Bossessand (Briel, Pornards): S Brotherstone (Edmburgh Revers). G Bulloch (Glugote Caledonand). P Burned (London Scottish). S Grimes (Glugote Caledonand). P Burned (London Scottish). S Grimes (Glugote Caledonand). P Burned (Glugote Caledonand). P Burned (Glugote Caledonand). P Walton (Reversite). P Marray (Bedford). E Penter (Bath). B Pounting (Northampton). A Reed (Wasps). T Smith (Glugote Caledonand). P Walton (Newtistie). WALES TEAM (e Raby, Traviso, Saturday): S Howards (Sale): G Thomas (Cardiff). M Taylor (Swansea). 5 Glips (Swansea). D sames (Portypridd). M Lead-les (Swansea). S London Irish). G Jeaches (Portypridd). R Burned (Swats). G Jeaches (Portyprid). R Burned (Swats). C Chelin.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of rare. horses, worth around £91,000, that

Australia presented to the Mongolian government during the bid to take the 2000 Olympic Games to Sydney.

Students revived by Laird

HOCKEY

SIX GOALS from Adam Laird allowed Cambridge University to cast off their nightmare of throwing away a two-goal advantage in the Varsity match last Tuesday, which finished in a 2-2 draw, when they resumed their challenge for a National League place at the weekend, writes Bill Colwill.

Away to second-placed Ipswich, they went behind twice in the opening five minutes. then stormed back into the game to win 8-3. On the scoring sheet. Laird, their former Oxford Blue, was joined by another former Oxford Blue, Roger Wilcock, and Phil Out-

On Sunday, in a rearranged game, they quickly went into a two-goal lead before beating West Herts 4-1, with Laird collecting two more. Wilcock another and a first from Steve Amerasekear. Now five points behind the leaders Peterborough Town with a game in hand, the students could make the play-offs, but must first beat Peterborough on Saturday and

then Bedford Town on Sunday. Two former National League players, Decian Colclough and Stephen Osborn, contrived a last-minute goal from Fareham to beat High Wycombe 2-1 in their outstanding game in the South League to send them into the National play-offs as cham-

BASKETBALL

BOWLS

BOWLS
BOWLS
BRITISH WOMEN'S INDOOR CHAMPI-OWSHIP (Balfrest) Singles semi-final; A Davies (Mil. Bro Ddyll) by A Dogsarr (irt. Bellast) 21-17. Chican (Eng. Boscon) w/o M Letham (Sco. Blankyre) scr Pissal: Hom by Davies 21-19. Palars Finals: Scotland (S Mittesh & A Mehrose) by Ireland (if Megrath & E Bell) 7-12. Triples Basal: Scotland (I) Brooksby, M Kowniey & E Wren) by Ireland (P Calvin, A Elliott & J Mulholland) (18-16 Fearras: Scotland (M Adams, R Gibros, K Adams & J Williamson) by Ireland (M Williamson, M Gralg, M Condron & G Law) 20-19.

CRICKET

Mohammad Azharuddin has been named as captain of India's 1999 World Cup squad. World Cup squad.

An unbeaten half-century by Hashan Tillakerathe only delayed the inventable as Sri Lanka fell to an innings defeat against Pakistan in the Asian Test Championship final in Dhaka yesterday. Sri Lanka, needing to reach 364 to make Pakistan bat again, were dismissed for 188 in their second innings at the stroke of tea on the fourth day.

ASIAN TEST CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL Fourth day. Sr Lanka won toss

Fourth day: Sn Lunko wan toss
SRI LANKA – First Indiags 231 (P A de Silva 72: Arshad Khan 5-36).
PANESTAN – First Indiags 594 (IJaz Ahmed 211; Inzamam-ul-Haq 200na, Saced Anwar 57; U D U Chandana 6-179).
SRI LANKA – Second Indiags

SRE LANKA - Second trategs (Overnight 9 for 3) R P Arnold c Wasim b A Arshad M S Alshawar

CYCLING

CYCLING
TIRRENO-ADRIATICO RACE Stuth stage
(170km from Tarame to Alba Adriatica.
in): 1 R Vainsteins (Lai) 3hr 49 02min: 2 F
Boldatro (It): 3 G Matteo Fagalini (It): 4 B
Conte (It): 5 T Hoffman (Neth) all same time:
6 M Ganetti (Smit) + 0.02sec, 7 P Vlgrumov
(Rus) +0.06; 8 G Raimondi (It) +1 49; 9 A
Petacchi (It): 10.1 Snorada (CZ Repl) both srt.
Overall placings: 1 M Bartosi (It) 27:20.08;
2 D Rebellin (It) +0.09; 8 S Gazrelli (It)
+0.12; 4 L Jalabert (Fr) +0.19; 9 I Gonzalez
(Spi) +0.28; 6 A Spezialetti (It) +1.54; 7 B
Hamburger (Den) +3.59; 8 C Jenner (NZ)
+4 24; 9 A Kiler (Ger) +4.25; 10 D
Casarotto (It) srt.

FOOTBALL

way, capable of setting up the

FOOTBALL

NATIONINDE LEAGUE Postposed fintures: The 23 Mar: Maccleshed v Stoke.
Pil 26 Mar: Brentford v Swanses. Rearranged finatures: The 23 Mar: Bristol
Rovers v Wycombe. The 38 Mar: Bristol
Rovers v Wycombe. The 38 Mar: Wolves
v Crewe; Wigan v Bristol Rovers. The 13
Apr: Grimsby v OPR. Toe 20 Apr: Shrewsbury v Rotherham. The 27 Apr: Hardlepool
v Leyton Onent: Notts County v Wycombe.
The 4 Mary: Wigan v Burnley.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE Photoric changes
Toenorrous: Postposed: Cydebank v Ayr
(due to Rements Scottish Cup reptiy).
GREEK LEAGUE: Paniliakos Pyrgos 0 AEK
Athens 1.
SWEDEN SOUAD (Rano 2000 qualify-

Athens 1.

SWEDEN SOLIAD (Euro 2000 qualifyers us Lowenboong 27 March, Poland St.
March): Goalkeepers: Hedman (Coventry City), Shibased: (Brann), Defenders: P.
Andersson (Borussia Monchengladbach),
Bjorkhand (Valencia), Maanark (Leicester
City), Leide (Bologna), Milsson (Coventry
City), Sundgren (Real Zaragoza), Midrielders: Alexandersson (Sheffield
Wednesday), D. Andersson (Bart), Blomphers
(Arsenal), Mild (Gothenburg), Migalby
(Celtic), Schwarz (Valencia), Swensson
(Wing), Forwards: Larsson (Celtic), K. Andersson (Bologna), Jonsson (Helsingborg), Pettersson (Borussia
Mönchengladbach).

WELCH'S CIRCLE R CHAMPIONSHIP (Bucson, Arbona) Final round scoves (US unless stand): 281 M Horth (Swe) 72 77 69 68 282 M McCay (GB) 73 71 70 68 283 L Neutrann (Swe) 72 72 70 70 74 71 286 T Barrett 73 71 72 70 15 88 55 Kerr 72 70 75 58. S Steinhauer 70 70 74 71 286 T Barrett 73 71 72 70 15 Bernetoud (Gr) 69 71 74 72 287 P Sheehan 72 72 76 67 288 M McGeorge 72 72 76 68: R Jones 74 69 75 70: K Peterson 73 70 74 71. A Benz 70 74 76 70: K Peterson 73 70 74 71. A Benz 70 74 76 70: K Peterson 73 70 74 71. A Benz 70 74 75 S L Dwels (GB) 72 73 70 74.

WOODS 70 75 70 70 74 S L Steinless stand): 1 7 Woods 12 Topts ave: 2 D Dwal 11.11: 3 M O'Meara 9 92: 4 E ES (SA) 9.85; 5 D Love III 9.79; 6 L Westwood (GB) 9.10; 7 V Singh (Fill 8.70; 8 C Montgomeric (GB) 8.41; 9 N Price (Zim) 7.76; 10 J Leonard 7.51; 11 P Micheson 7.29; 12 J Furyl 7.27; 13 F Couples 7.05; 14 M Osaid (Lapari) 6.72; 15 I Maggert 6.28; 16 S Ethington (Aus) 6 20; 17 D Clarke (GB) 5.78; 18 P Stewart 5.75; 19 J Parmenk (Sver) 5.57; 20 L Janzen 5.12. EUROPEAN RYDER CUP PORNTS: 1 C Pernevik (Sive) 5.57; 20 L. Janzen 5.12.
EUROPEAN RYDER CUP POINTS: 1 C
Montgomerie (Sco) 5890pts; 2 M-A Jimenez
(Sp) 3787; 3 D Clarke (N Ire) 3453; 4 L Westwood (Eng) 3412; 5 S Scruver (Ge) 2660; 6
A Cejta (Ger) 2616; 7 R Nartsson (Sive) 2323;
8 D Howeld (Eng) 2302; 9 A Coltant (Sco)
2151; 10 P Sjoland (Sive) 2122; 11)
Sandelin (Sive) 2090; 12 S Webster (Eng)
1976; 13 Jikcherton (Eng) 1805; 14 B Langer
(Ger) 1756; 15 P McGinley (Ire) 1715.

MHL: Pittsburgh 4 Philadelphia Louis 6 Edmonton 4: Montreal 2 To

MOTOR RACING Michael Schumacher twisted his ankle while logging and will miss Ferrari's private testing today and tomorrow in Barcelona. The injury is not serious and will not prevent the German from taking part in the next race, the Brazilian Grand Prix, on 11 April in São Paulo.

RUGBY LEAGUE les will take the place of France In the triangular international tour-nament later this year. The French, who won the 1998 three-nation se-

ries with narrow wins over Scotland and Ireland, have been granted home and away matches against NOTICE OF THE PROPERTY OF T

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL 7.30 unless stated UEFA CUP QUARTER-FINALS SECOND LEG Lyon (0) v Bologna (3) Parma (1) v Bordeaux (2) (5.30).

FA CUP SIXTH ROUND Barnsley v Torrenham (7.45) ... Bury v Wolverhampton (7.45) ... Crewe v Grimsby (7.45) SECOND DIVISION

Man City v Notts County (7.45) Stoke v Fulham (7.45) THURD DIVISION Brentford v Hairfax (7.45)..... Rotherham v Cardiff (7.45). AUTO WINDSCREEKS SHIELD NORTHERN AREA FINAL

Wigan v Wreeham (7.45).. SOUTHERN AREA FINAL SECOND-LEG Walsali v Millwali (7.45)

NATION BIDE CONFERENCE
Cheltenham v Famborough (7.45)
Leek Town v Southport (7.45)
Northwich v Doncaster (7.45) Rushden v Dover (7.45) ... Welling v Stevenage (7.45) Wolang v Kettering (7.45)

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP FIFTH ROUND REPLAY

Dundee Utd v Ayr (7.45).........

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Dumbarton v Covedenbeach

RYMAN LEASTE Premier Detailors Aidershot v Pir Reet (7, 45); Bishop's Scornford v
Heybridge (7, 45) (at St Aften's City); Bromter y St Abars (1, 45); Duhwich v Bitlericay;
Hampton v Enfleid; Hendon v Sutton Urd.
First Detailors: Barton Rovers v Staines
Town: Bognor Regis Town v Berkhamsted
Town: Grays Athielic Your v Berkhamsted
Town: Grays Athielic Wellaches Banstead
Athielic v Wilechne Court; Barting v Windsor & Eton; Edgware Town v Northwood: Met
Police v Mirchor Court; Barting v Windsor & Eton; Edgware Town v Northwood: Met
Police v Mariow: Witham Town v Harlow
Town: Wellingham Town v Leighbon Town.
Taird Division: Corinthian Casuals v Dorking East Thurrock Urd v Hornchurch: Egham
Town v Lewes; Flackwell Heath v Epsom &
Ewell; Mogsbury Town v Tilbury, Ware v
Southalb.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division Unitsjoned LEAGUE Primiter Dehiluster of Attin-cham, First Dinnistest Alfreton Town v East-wood Town: Trafford v Drystden, Challenge Cap Fourth round: Stalybridge Cells; v Eurscough President's Cap Semi-Final First legs Leigh RMI v Runcom. First leg: Leigh RMI v Runcom.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Digislom Bath City v Wordser City (7-45); King's
lymn v Bromagrove (7-45); Rothwell Rown v
Grantham (7-45). Redition Divisione Blastenall v Cinderford Town, Bloowich Town v
Mescon-super-Mare: Redditch Lird v Stroubridge. Shepshed Dynamo v Hinckey Lird:
Stafford Rangers v Racing Warwick: Bedworth Lird v Evesham Lind. Southarn Divislow: Bashley v Yate Town. Ashford Rown v
Andover: Folkestone Invicta v Newport
(10W): Raunds Town v Fisher Athletic Witney Town v Hyant & Waterfoodile.

WINSTONLEAD RESIT LEAGUE Premier
Division: Enth Town v Beckenham Town:
Herne Bay v Faversham Town.

URLSPORT United Counties Langum Pro-mer Dinisious Cogenhoe v Synestury, Ford Sports v Buckingham Towni; Sr Neots v Speiding: Stoofold v Yaidey UNILET SUSSEIX COUNTY LEAGUE First Dinision: Ringmer v Eastbourne Town, Wick v Burgess Hill Rown. SCREMFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Pressier Dinisione Barnstaple Town v Bridgwater Down: Brislayetin v Bishon Surroy Princer

Town: Brislington v Bishop Sutton: Brislington v Bishop Sutton: Brislington v Bishop Sutton: Briston Manor Farm v Mellisham Town: Paulton Rovers v Chippenham Town: Westhors the

v recoust westeren trans League First Divisions Bootle v Salford City, Nantwich Town v S Height Town; Mossley v Atherton LR: Prescot Cables v Leck CSOB, Stelmers-dale Und v Atherton Collicries: Vauxhall GM v Rossendale Und. Promier Ownties East LEAGUE Premier Ownsions Glasshoughton Welfare y Bunton Mairby v Thackley, President's Cop final first leg: North Ferriby United v

Garforth Town.
HYTERLINK EURPRESS MIDLAND Indispersial Rewinds League Cup Sent-final first leg: Oldbury Utd v Bridghorth Rown.
JEMISON WIESSEN LEAGUE: Christchurch v East Cowes Vics.
JEMISON PASTERN LEAGUE: Christchurch v East Cowes Vics.
JEMISON EASTERN LEAGUE: Premier Divisions History v Scham Town Rangers: Maddon Town v Newmarker Town: Motham v Fallerham Town: EV City v Warboys.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Divisions Constended Town League First Divisions Constended Communication (7.0). Pires Divisions Oldham v Shelf Wied (7.0): Port Valle v Burnley (7.0). Third Divisions; Halface Rochdale C.O.
ANDE INSURANCE COMMENSATION First Divisions Portanouth v Chebes; Reading v Chaffen C OL Communic To Chaffen C OL Communication First Divisions Portanouth v Chebes; Reading v Chaffen C OL Communications. Charlton (2.0): Swinger v resources of the TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Fifth round:

Oct: Wales v Ireland (at Vench Field, Swansea): 22 Oct: Scotland v Wales (at Firthii Park, Glosgow): 23 Oct: England v France (or Boulevard, Hull): 30 Oct: Ire-land v Scotland (at Tolka Park, Dublin). NRL: Brisbane 6 Cronulla 14; St George/Illawarra 18 Canterbury 24; Syd-ney City 46 Manly 0.

Lyon have nothing to lose

RUGBY UNION RUGBY UNION

ENGLAND LINDER-12 TEAM (vs France,
Worcastes, Friday): 1 Balsham (Both), R
Takrby (Sarcers), E Johnspune (Sarcers),
M Tinsidi (Bath), 1 Best (Richmond), J
Princhard (Brissol), J Bramball (Northampton), M Bland (Northampton), S Walter (Northampton), J Dameson (Sardors), S
Borthavick (Bath), J Raie (Newcastie), A
Sandorson (Salc. capt), A Balding (Leiceter), A Hazalf (Goocester), Raplacetowniss M Walter (Rotthertam), J Brown
(London Irish), P Richards (London Irish),

SAILING Marc Thiercelin, the Frenchman, sailed into port yesterday with a temporary mast, ending the third leg of the around-the-world regatta 13 days behind his last remaining rival,

SQUASH AUSTRIAN OPEN (Vienna) Men's Gual: 5 Handley (Eng) bt M Fiteni (Aus) 17-14 2-15 9-15 15-12 15-8.

TENNIS

Jana Novotna. the Wimbledon cham-pion, will prepare for this year's Wim-bledon by defending her Direct Line title at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne from 15-19 June. Britain's Greg Rusedski has dropped three places to 13th in the latest

world rankings, while his compatriot. Tim Henman, rose a place to skith, his highest position. Carlos Moya, from Spain, has moved ahead of Pete Sampras to become the world No 1, despite losing in the final of the Newsweek Champions' Cup in California to Australia's Mark Philippoussis at the weeken. poussis at the weekend.

ATP TOUR RANDONGS: 1 C Moya [Sp]
3,484pts 2 P Suripras (US) 3,447: 3 Y Karenikov (Rus) 3,382; 4 A Correța (Sp) 3,250;
5 P Raffer (Aus) 3,115; 6 T Hennan (GB)
2,636; 7 R Kradicch (Neth) 2,577; 8 M Ros
(Chile) 2,434; 9 A Agost (US) 2,376; 10 f Martin (US) 2,300; 11 M Philippoussis (Pan)
2,254; 12 K Kucera (Slovak) 2,238; 13 G
Rusedski (GB) 2,145; 14 G harrisvic (Cros)
1,946; 15 T Enqvist (Sure) 1,818; 16 A Cotta (Sp) 1,389; 17 G Kuceran (Rp1,1,597; 18
T Johansson (Suve) 1,514; 19 T Haas (Get)
1,600; 26 F Mandila (Sp) 1,589; Ochar (BB194 C Wilkinson 239; 274 B Cowan 141;
294 M Macdagan 126.

2C Clear 2C Settled

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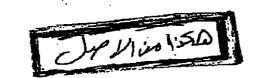
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REEKEND POOLS

FIRST DIVILLACION

3-4 3-5

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otland McGrath is and by quick to cut quick to cut down Lara

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and he this week by pared Cellic Band at Murray de return to विश्व की **क**ंग्राप्त क्षीए। in contratates Cand Matthry **河域 ([M**94] - 1/2-1/2d by the physics. क्षायाम् । विकास क्या कि क्यां क्रम क्रिक and the tourner

ter has invested ति विदेशकार्यक्ष स्थान Armstrong by अरस्टकेची का हजार APTS PERSONAL SINE the recture over angh a faring hi mile serum half addition that the reside has had broken a Fatrer तामार भन्ना भाग भाग ५०% meen centre, him

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NATIONWIDE LEAGUE 17 Chesterfield v Luton Walsali v Bristoi Rovers

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION

BRIAN LARA'S dazzling innings, which had emphatically lifted CRICKET the depression hanging over BY TONY COZIER West Indies cricket and gave at Sabina Park, Jamaica them the initiative in the second Test, came to a quick and Australia 256 anticlimactic end on the third

morning yesterday. The West Indies captain, who dominated the second day with batting of sublime quality, added only a single to his overnight 212 before he got a faint edge to wicketkeeper Ian Healy off his fourth ball from Australia's premier fast bowler

nine consecutive overs from the George Headley Stand end, McGrath also removed Jimmy Adams, who had remained with Lara through an overall West Indies fifth-wicket partnership record of 332. A left-hander of completely different character and method to Lara, Adams' contribution was 93, spread over four and three-quarter hours, before he steered a straightforward catch to gully's midriff.

The dismissals altered confident West Indian expectations of an overwhelming firstinnings lead, but it was already substantial at lunch despite leg-spinners Shane Warne and MacGill getting among the ower ordec

At the interval, the West

West Indies 431

Indies were 431 for 9, a lead of 176, but the first ball after the resumption saw Courtney Walsh fall lbw to Stuart MacGill

Warne collected his first wicket of the series after 41 overs when Ridley Jacobs, yet another left-hander, rifled a catch to mid-on while MacGill dismissed Pedro Collins and Curtly Ambrose with sharp legbreaks. The pitch, relaid after last

year's abandonment against England, has stood up well under a baking sun but is becoming increasingly cracked. Both McGrath and his pace partner Jason Gillespie, made a few deliveries leap spitefully from just short of a length during the morning and batting will not be as easy over the last half of the match as it was in the first.

A reduced Monday morning crowd was still drifting in when Lara trudged disconsolately back to the players' pavilion and not everyone was in their seats when Adams followed him 40 minutes later

rekindling West Indian belief that they can compete with the powerful Australians.

WEST BIDIES - First Innings

(Overnight: 377 for 4)

"B C Lara c Healy b McGrath ______213
D R E Joseph c Blewett b McGrath _____14
P T Collins c M E Waugh b MacGrill ____3
J C Adams c Elliott b McGrath _____94
RD Jacobs c Elliott b Warne ______25
N O Berry opt aut O Perry not out _____ E L Ambrose b MacGill ____ A Walsh Ibw b MacGill ___

:: 5 R Bucknor (WII) and P Willey

sympathetic reception for both, a stark contrast to the wild scenes of the previous afternoon when hundreds of jubilant spectators invaded the field to mob Lara after his 100th and his It was an innings of considerable significance by Lara,

Lara was under enormous

pressure when he began to drag the West Indies out of the mire of 37 for 4 at the start of the second day. His tenure now seems assured and his popularity restored, even here in Jamaica where his replacement of their favourite cricketer Courtney Walsh, as captain has prompted strong feelings.
Third day: Australia won toss
AUSTRALIA - First lasings 256 (S R
Waugh 100. M E Waugh 67: C A Walsh
4-55).

Bowling: McGrath 35-11-93-5 (nb4); Gillesple 33-7-79-1 (nb10); Warne 30-8-94-1 (nb5); MacGil 22: 33-384-3 (nb2); Blewett 10-1-48-0 (nb1); M E Waugh 2-0-13-0. Umphress 5 P a...

Weather and Cronje save Kiwis

into the dullest of draws yesterday on another rain affected-day. South Africa declared their first innings at their overnight score which gave them a lead of 274 and in the three and a half hours play after lunch New

Zealand made 126 for 1. Whatever the South Africans had done, they would probably have been beaten by the weather, but it was still unaccountably defensive of Han- on 107 for the first wicket withsie Cronje not to have declared

THE SECOND Test petered out BY HENRY BLOFELD in Christchurch

هكذامن القهل

New Zealand 168 & 127-1 S Africa 442-1 dec Match drawn

soon after the start on Sunday. If New Zealand had been three or four wickets down overnight it would have been harder to hang on. As it was, Matt Porce and Brian Young put out any difficulty against an at-

Donald because of a torn stornach muscle. This was the first three-figure opening partner-ship for New Zealand since Craig Spearman and Roger Twose put on 214 against Zimbabwe in Auckland in 1995/96.

The first two Tests in this series have ended in boring draws and the teams meet again on Thursday in the third at the Basin Reserve in Wellington where, by all accounts, the pitch will be more likely to produce a

tack which was without Allan result. But, even without Donald, it is impossible to see South Africa being beaten. Fifth day New Zepland won toss MENT ZEALAND - First Isalogs 168 (5 M

more ZEALAND - Pirst leadings 168 (5 M Policia 4-34). SOUTH APRICA - Pirst leadings 4A2 for 1 dec (H H Göbb 21 Inc.) H Kallis 14kino, G Wisten 63. NEW ZEALAND - Second leadings 8 A Young not out ...

Fall 1-107.
Did not bat: N.J Astle, G.R. Steed, C.Z. Harrik.
1A.C. Parore. "D.J. Nash. D.L. Vettori, S.B. Doull, G.I. Aldott.
Bowling: Politock 12-4-23-0 (nbbs.), Russens: T.4-4-32-0, Adams 15-0-52-0; Kalis G-2-13-0; Cronje 4-3-1-0.

England infirm four on target

ENGLAND HAVE been given a clean bill of health before they complete their preparations for this summer's World Cup by entering the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah next month. Doubts over four key players

- Michael Atherton, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother and Ian Austin - following recent injuries left England facing the possibility of choosing replacements prior to their departure for the Lahore training camp on 28 March. But Atherton and Thorne.

both of whom were troubled with recurrences of back trouble during England's unsuccessful Ashes campaign this winter, have emerged unscathed from intensive assessments at Lilleshall under the supervision of the fitness consultant Dean Riddle, the exercise physiologist Nigel Stockhill and the physiotherapist Wayne Morton. Austin, who underwent knee

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surgery after competing in the Champions' Cup in Dhaka last October, has also made a promising recovery, while his Lancashire team-mate Fairbrother has made progress after suffering hamstring trouble throughout the Carlton and United One-Day tournament

"We are obviously pleased that the fitness reports on the four players are encouraging," David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said. "All of them are aware of the need to continue to work on their overall fitness levels and they will do that before we depart for La hore on 28 March."

Inter to get it right on night

IT'S NOT over yet. And Internazionale, miserable away from home in Serie A this term but mustard at the San Siro, are a good bet to beat Manchester United over 90 minutes in the second leg of their European Cup quarter-final tie in Milan tomorrow night.

and fancied to land the scudetto this season after acquiring Roberto Baggio in the summer, the Italian giants have had injury problems. They struggled to qualify for the European Cup quarter-finals, are out of the Italian Cup, and lie only seventh in Serie A.

The principal reason for Inter's moderate Italian league showing this term has been their shocking away form. They have won just two, drawn four and lost a massive seven of their fixtures on the road and this in a league which - apart from the brilliant seven or so which give Serie A its classiest league in the world tag - contains several ropey outfits.

It was no surprise, therefore, o see Inter go under 2-0 to United at Old Trafford, but it could be a different story at the San Siro, where Inter have won eight, drawn two and only lost two in the league this term. United will be pushover, but that two-goal cushion from the first leg gives Alex Ferguson's men little incentive to go out men little incentive to go out and try and win tomorrow's game. And, although they would much prefer the comfort

SPORTS BETTING

of a draw, if United are a goal down with 10 minutes to go, they will be happy to try to contain their loss on the night to a single goal. And, of course, if It's all gone for Inter. Win- United have scored, they could

e 3-1 and go thro Ronaldo, Inter's once-be on-the-planet Brazilian strik missed the first leg, but con play tomorrow night. Howev it would be a mistake to expe much of the tendinitis-plagu hit man, who was substit half-time in Inter's 2-2 dra with Milan on Saturday night.

On Thursday Chelsea, 3-0 up from the first leg, won't exactly be exerting themselves when they visit Valerenga for the second leg and the Norwegian outfit are value to pull off an ultimately fruitless win.

Draw	12-5	94	12-5	11-5	9.
Man Utd	9-4	11-4	5-2	9-4	12-5
Volerenga	11-5	16-3	13-5	18-3	11-4
Draw	11-5	11-5	12-5	12-5	5-7
Chelsea	5-6	B-11	45	+6	8-1
Other Selection of Second (4-7, C. H. S) S, T): Parametro draw with selection at 2 regard: Barris Tomorrow p	legs: R; Lyon to to beat Marsetti -1, now ley to dr. leght: B	ama to p beat E Bordeau es (spor 7-1) (17 ann with propess	i best Ai Sologna at (4-7, its bettir 2-5, H). I I Tottesi II Cup I	desico i (10-11. Li; Cels egis cos F.A. Cop sam (12 pagrass	Radric C, H & Vige e-pos stati -5, L)
second legs: sich (9-5, H); (11-5, H, S); [Kalsler Olympi	alacter alos to	2 to 66	nich ju	n Mo rentu

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

5 West Ham v Newcastle Not ou councie: Blackburn v Wimbledon

FIRST DIVISIÓN Barnsley v Wolves...... Bristol City v Bradford City...

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

BANK OF SCOTLAND PREMIER LEAGUE 39 Dundee v Hearts......40 Dunfermline v St Johnstone

42 Rangers v Dundee Utd Standars Kilmarnock v Celtic. SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

43 Ayr v St Mirren 44 Cfydebank v Raith 45 Falkirk v Hamilton 46 Hibernian v Airdrie ... 47 Stranzer v Morton .

SCOTTISH LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

48 Alica v Queen of the South...... AS Cycle v Arbroath.

Not on coupon: East Fife v Sching; Forfar v Inverness Ct; Partick v Listingston.

Scottist Third division: Abion v Stenhousemult: Berwick v Brechit; Montrose
v East Striing; Queen's Park v Cowdenbeath; Ross County v Dambarton. YEN HOMES: Arsenal v Coventry: Sheffield Utd v Port Vale: Stockport v Tran-mere; Fulham v Blackpoot; Reading v Wycombe; Stoke v Notts County; Walsall v Bristol Rowers; Rangers v Dundee Uto; Falkirk v Hamilton: Clyde v Arbroath. PIVE AMAYS: Barnsley v Wolves: Bris-tol City v Bradford City: Huddersfield v Birmingham: West Brom v Ipswich: Rochdale v Barnet.

POUR DRAWS: Nozem Forest v Mid-desbrough: Southampton v Sheff Wed; Norwich v Porcsmouth; Oldham v Milwall.

By Ian Davies

LIVE ON TERRESTRIAL TV

inter	10-11	5-6	5-6	4	10-11
Draw	12-5	94	12-5	11-5	9-4
Man Utd	9-4	11-4	5-2	9-4	12-5
Volerenga	11-5	16-3	13-5	18-3	11-4
Draw	11-5	11-5	12-5	12-5	5-2
Chebra	5-6	B-11	4-5	4-6	8-11
Other Sales final second (4-7, C, H. 5) S, T); Parms	kegs: R ; Lyon t	beat i	best A Sologna	dedco / (10-11	. C, H.
to draw with selection at 2 round: Barris	Marsell (-1, now ley to dr	es (spor 7-1) (1) has with	ts betti 2-5, HJ. I Totresi	ng's and FACU tam (12	te-post o stati 1-5, L).
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MIG.	1 240335 TOPOTHENORTHRACING (15) (C) P Beaumont 9 12 0
st-	2 -40602 KAKASHDA (11) JH Johnson 8 11 11L Cooper (7)
	3 03053U D'ARBLAY STREET (11) (CD) W Kemp 10 11 10 B Haeding B
cer,	4 -FP4D4 DOCKMASTER (8) Mas K Militan 8 11 9 R Goes
uld	5 0223PO SAUCY NUN (38) (C) P Hatt 7 to 8
	6 UCC305 MET CHRISTIE (8) Mas & Siddel 7 fl 7T Skiddel (5)
лег,	7 3U045U GERMAN LEGENO (27) D Lamb 9 11 3 Buris
ect	8 UCG-20 CORBLEU (90) S Bail 9 11 0 K Johnson
	9 -P430P ANGUS ASTRAYS (31) J Norton 6 TJ 13C Refter (7)
ied	10 000F50 WILLIAM OF ORANGE (8) J.Jefferson 7 10 13 A S Srabb B
lat	11 00000P OVER STATED (15) I Park 8 10 0M H Neughton (5
	12 COPPP GOLD DROP (28) H Mulineaux 5 18 0
aw	13 00-046 INDIAN VICEROY (8) J Turner 6 10 0

Minimum weight: 10st, True handicap weights: Over Stated & Gold Drop Rel 12b, Indian Viceroy Set 11b. ectog, 9-2 D'Arbley Street, 5-1 Kak FORM VERDICT

1 -1RP2 HEMP (HEXTER 28)(CD) JH. Litroon 8 ti 9.C McCormank (3)
2 1RP3 CHARMANG MOSS (15) D M Forsir 8 ti 2 ______ 1 Supplis
3 5255 EMPEROR'S MAGIC (25) N Meson 8 ti 2 ______ A Gunot
4 -00560 PRVIP 9ATPLITE (20) Mir. J Brown 8 ti 2 ______ A Flower
5 03-95 LORD RIXLAH (5) (CD) J Widde 8 ti 2 ______ A S Smith
6 003-01 MR BRUNO (11) M Brames 6 ti 2 ______ S Taylor
7 UHRV PRIME STYLE (738) JH Johnson 10 ti 2 ______ D Pactor
8 5PSSP0 QUIXALI CROSSETT (17) E Cane 14 ti 2 ______ Mr O Pagen

FORM VERDICT MEANY HUSTLER is the most fiely witner of a moderate novice chase and should take care of Fryup Setalitie. Of the others life Bruno could run well at a big price.

3.35 ALPHAMERIC RED ONION NOVICE HDLE (E) £3,000 mares 2m 51 110yds | 1281 CATHEDRAL BELLE (47) (CD) Mrs M Rovely 5 12_G Lee
| 1281 CATHEDRAL BELLE (47) (CD) Mrs M Rovely 5 12_G Lee
| 1290 CELWYSL (14) G M Moore 6 10 2_Thegg (7)
| 3 0650 CHANTELY ROSE (89) Mrs R Brovle 7 70 12_A 5 Smith
| 4 0650 CHANTELY ROSE (89) Mrs R Brovle 7 70 12_A 5 Smith
| 5 0650 CHANTELY ROSE (89) Mrs R Brovle 7 70 12_B A 5 Smith
| 6 0070 DAMARSS (15) R Alim 7 10 12_B Mrs R
| 6 0070 DAMARSS (15) R Alim 7 10 12_B Mrs R
| 8 0050 GUILE POINT (8) D Lamb 8 10 12_B Mrs R
| 9 0650 HEAVINING (89) P Eccles 5 5 0 2_D Byrns
| 10 0650 PENNY PEPPERMINT (115) R Brs 7 10 12_M Smith
| 10 0650 PENNY PEPPERMINT (115) R Brs 7 10 12_M Smith
| 10 0650 PENNY PEPPERMINT (115) R Brs 7 10 12_M Smith
| 10 0650 PENNY PEPPERMINT (115) R Brs 7 10 12_M Homoics (6)
| 14 065000 PENNY PEPPERMINT (115) R Brs 7 10 12_M Homoics (6)
| 15 0 06500 PENNY PEPPERMINT (115) R Brs 7 10 12_M Homoics (6)
| 16 06500 PENNY PEPPERMINT (115) R Brs 7 10 12_M Homoics (6)
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| 10 06500 PENNY PEPPERMINT (115) R Brs 7 10 12_M

- 14 decianed -BETTING: 2-5 Cathedral Balle, 13-2 Parath's Darling, 8-1 Dooble Buck, 14-1 broadde Princess, 20-1 Heavenly Thought, 25-1 others

FORM VERDICT SEDGEFIELD CATHEDRAL BELLE is head and shoulders above these and, proven in conditions too, is well-nigh impossible to oppose.

2.25 Topofthenorthracing 3.00 Heavy Hustler 3.35 Cathedral Belle 4.15 Nosam 4.50 Hiltonstown Lass 5.20 Helmsley Filer

GOTNG: Good to Soft (Good in piaces).

III Laft-hand, undulating course. Easy fences and long run-in.

III Course in I'm SE of town near job of A689 and A777. Bus service from Stockton station (9m) or Ourham station (12m), ADMS-SION: Peddock 29 (CAPs 26; Course 23, CAR PARK: Free. FWE-YEAR STATISTICS

PVE-YEAR STATISTICS
BLEADING TRAINERS: Mas in Revelop 64-22 (254%), G in Moore
9-14 (67%), B Ellison 9-121 (169%), J H Johnson 9-165 (169%).
BLEADING JOCKEYS: P Niver 44-175 (251%), G Lee 21-98
(214%), L Wyer 18-108 (417%), A Dobbin 15-162 (93%).
B FAVOLRITES: 195-501 (372%).
BLEAKERED FIRST TIME: Guille Point (355), Gold Drop (visced, 225).

2.25 MONKEY PUZZLE SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (G) £2,000 3m 3f 110yds

FORTH YEMULU I

A trappy race in which several can be fancled.
TOPOTHENORTHRACING generally plas her trade at a higher level and, having dropped in the weights again, may be able to capitalise, though a slight stamina query does temper confidence.

3.00 TOTE COURSE TO COURSE NOVICE CHASE (E) £4,000 2m 5f

- 9 decired -BETTING: 15-8 Heavy Houter, 7-2 Charming Moss, 4-1 Pryup Salailie, 9-2 Emperor's Magic, 7-1 Lard Rulish, 20-1 Mr Bruno, 33-1 others

4.15 ALPHAMERIC BET CAPTURE SYSTEMS H'CAP CHASE (D) 26,000 2m 5f

Minimum: 10st. True weights: Acother Red Set 10th, Copposituest Set Stb. BETTING: 9-4 River Unstrien, 7-2 Royal Moentbrowns, 4-1 Nessen, 7-Acother Red, 8-7 Eastly Johns, 12-1 Back Bar, 16-1 others FORM VERDICT River Unshion is the one to beet, but he doesn't win that often and down the bottom of hendicap ANOTHER RED could be the one on his favourite track. The step up to 2m5f from

2m will suit the selection and provided the ground len't too 4.50 TOTE TRIO HUNTERS CHASE (H)

US2-UP FAST STUDY (22) (D) S Robinson 14 12 10 Jür S Robinson (7) 15(0- MAJIC RAIN (474) (CD) A Dictoren 14 12 10 Jür S Robinson (7) 24/3/5 INTESPRITY BOY (23) (C) Mise A Armitage 12 12 7 213-22 LINE ATHEN (16) (8F) May A Bell 9 12 7 Mr N M Be

- 14 declared -BETTING: 100-90 Hillonetown Lees, 7-2 Trade Dispute, 5-1 Liniathen, 11-2 Makin' Doo, 15-2 Oromore Dreem, 9-1 Polyath, 10-1 others

FORM VERDICT
TRADE DISPUTE is the pick on form and is also a proven stayer while there is a slight query on that occure against some of the other principals, Limiethen in penticular, Granted a clear round on only this third start over fences – and mindful of the fact that he has made the odd mis es - Trade Dispute will be pretty herd to beat.

5.20 TOTE PLACEPOT NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 added 2m 1f 1. 3005 MINISARRIF 89 (CD) (8P) J Dodds 6 2 0... S Malrote (7)
2 PARCEUR DU MESML 289 K Morgen 8 11 8... A 5 Smith
3 GR2844 MONIS (29) (8P) B Elson 8 11 7... L Cooper (7)
4 556794 HEJASLEY FLER (11) T Exstarty 5 11 4... E Collegate
5 242 ACCYSTAN (17) M Harmond 4 11 4... N Hormotha (8)
6 268P3 JARAAB (28) D Smith 8 11 8... E Harding
7 - Sent Orige LAD (178) (CD) Man X Miligen 6 11 1... B Gratton (5)
8 05403 THE LAMBTON WORM (4) N Byout 5 10 13... G F Nyer (9)
9 0-0804 COME AND RUN (75) M W Easterby 5 10 13 C McCommax (3)
10 SP0200 PANOCRAS LORD (20) J Maintryl (15 To 12 ... D Parties
10 GP00 CAMDEN FELLOW (31) P Ecoles 6 10 7... JM Scales (7)
12 504 KONNER (20) G M Moore 4 10 3 ... R Genet
13 056040 ONE STOP (6) M Bernes 6 10 0... S Taylor
- 13 declared -

- 13 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handlogs weight: One Stop Set 11th.
BETTRICE: 7-2 Acoysten, 4-1 Helmiley Filer, 5-1 Oriel Led, 7-1 Ferceur De Mennil, 8-1 Motesartit, 10-1 Jerseh, Monis, 14-1 Others FORM VERDICT

COME AND AUN may be the enswer, as he is fairly weight-ed on his improved run last time out and is the subject of an interesting jockey booking. He absence since December is a sight concern, but he is still taken to see off Helmeley Filer, though in truth several can be fancied in another trappy affair.

SOUTHWELL

1.45 Jibereen 2.15 Carrie Pooter 2.50 Billy Box .25 Butrinto 4.05 Swift 4.40 State Approval

GOING: Standard, STALLS: 51 - outside; remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Middle to low best for 51, low best for 71. El Floresand surface; left-hand sharp, oval course. In Course is 3m SE of town and 5m W of Newark. Rolleston Junction adjoins course. ADMISSION: CAID 512; Tettersalls 58 (CAPs 54, accompanied under-16s free). CAR PARK: Free. FIVE-WEAR STATISTICS

II LEADING TRAINERS: III Johnston 43-222 (194%). S Bowring 43-384 (195%). J Eyrs 42-311 (35%). R Hollesthead 40-407 (98%). II LEADING JOCKEYS: J Carlin 47-56 (51%), J Weaver 37-231 (19%). L Charmock 35-389 (9%). G Deffield 52-230 (195%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Stona Ridge (visored, 405), Oriel Star & Selidrik Rose (visored, 5.15).

2.15 DARTMOOR CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 7f

FORM VERDICT
This looks to concern the two 3yo's Cantle Pooler and NANYS
AFFAIR, and while the latter is unproven on the track, she

2.50 SUFFOLK PUNCH CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (F) £2,750 1m 6f

1.45 COB HANDICAP (CLASS D) (DIV I)

– 10 declared – Minimum weight: 7st 1010. True handloop weight: Tom 7st 4th. BETTBNG: 4-1 High Noon, 9-2 Jibanean, 11-2 Ron's Pat, 6-1 Rabie, Mag-icel Strot, 7-1 King Prizen, 10-1 Sanatoga Red, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT
This can go to MAGICAL SHOT, who is probably idealy sur ed by this trip, even though he has form over faither, and he can confirm last times C&D supercrity over Jibersen.

-8 declared -BETTING: 6-4 Nacy's Affair, 2-1 Carrie Pooter, 9-2 Titts Ruffo, 8-1 Ab-test, 16-1 My Legal Eagle, 25-1 Notesus, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT
It is very herd to fency enything with any confidence, HR.LZAK
is the token selection atthough last year's winner Monaco
Gold should run well to:

3.25 COB HANDICAP (CLASS D) (DIV II) 25,250 added 1m

3-0m SHARP SCOTCH (28) (CD) D Carroll 6 to 0R Fitz-Patrick (5) 5
000-11 SHARD (10) (CD) K Morgan 5 9 12 ... P Fitz-Interior (7) 7
0-0005 BUTRINTO (18) J Pearso 5 9 7 ... K Fallon 3
03-001 GENIUS (18) (D) D Chapman 4 9 3 A Cultime 6
0-000 HEVER GOLF GLORY (8) (D) C Relett 5 2 0 ... T Williams 4
03901 MANGARETS DANCER (129) (D) J L Eyre 4 8 8 C Leathing 18
1020 MANGARETS DANCER (129) (D) J L Eyre 4 8 8 C Leathing 19
0-2631 WITHOUT FREENOS (8) (CD) Mrs N Macauley 5 8 6 (Set Deam McCleover 8 V
0-0000 LAA (MARED 029) (C) M Polyters 4 7 10 P Dos (50 2

9 0-1000 LAA JADEED (22) (C) M Polylase 4 7 10 P Doe (3) State - 9 dectared - 4 dectared - 4 dectared - 4 dectared - 4 dectared - 5 dec

Without Friends, 6-1 Haver Golf Glory, 10-1 Geolus, 20-1 others
FORM VERDICT
This is 8-ely to be run at a good dip which will suit SAGUARD, who is going from strength to strength since switched to Fibreasend and remains open to further improvement. Sharp Scottch is not certain to confirm lest monthly placings with
Surfarbo, although he is a more dependable sort, while Motahadeth and Without Friends have to dety 5lb penalties for last week's successes here against less testing rivals.

4.05 'NEIL & DIANE 25TH ANNIVERSARY' HANDICAP (D) £6,000 1m 4f

FORM VERDICT

Although he is steedly using in the weights, GREEN SOP-PER is going from strength to strength and should bear Swift for the fourth time in four outings. Count De Money and Yes Keezes Sabee have been intit quite herd for their good battle here less month but still appeal most of the remander

4.40 ARAB SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 52,500 added 1m 3f ORES MOORNAMING (18)(CD) Miss S Witton 6 10 0.J Savage (7) 4 8
20-80 ROFFEY SPINNEY (30) J Culinan 5 10 0 ... 8 Smith (7) 1
112-1 STATE APPROVAL (5)(CD) Miss S Witton 6 10 0 C Carver (5) 2
003-0 DANKA (66) K Corrector 5 9 10 14 Festion 3
/000-0 GOLDSTAR (24) P Eccles 4 9 8 S Withworth 5

BETTING: 4-6 State Approval, 7-4 Moenraking, 10-1 others **FORM VERDICT**

Sue Wilton dominates this event with her runners. Last year's wriner State Approval is probably the form pick, but this is a second quick run back efter a long break for a horse who has his problems, so MOONRAKING looks the value option 5.15 THOROUGHBRED HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 5f

2. 13 E) E3,500 added 5f

1 00250 DEMOLITION JO (120) P Euros 4 9 12...... J F Egun 15 Y
2 00250 BLUE KITE (84) (9) (87) Nu broaden 4 99 K Felton 3
2 02-94 SARMAR (8) (87) Mirs N Macauley 7 99 P Miccibe 6 V
4 100-10 BOLD FRONTIER (41) (CD) K Nory 7 98 doubthal 13 Y
5 00-320 AA-YOUROKOWNOTHING (9) Mics J Crazes 3 9 5 S Webster 16
5 50522 METT NORMAN (8) (C) (D) D Nichels 5 9 4 Alex Grateves 11
7 32540 POLAR MIST (20) Mirs N Macauley 4 8 13 Dean MicKeown 5 V
5 50900 CAMED (10) (D) M Charlon 4 89 P Cleary (7) 12 V
9 4-400 TRINCER'S SURPRISE (0) (D) J Bolding 5 8 8 Edmands 4 B
10 30000 CRIEB, STAR (130) (D) P Evers 3 8 7 C Cogan (7) 14 V
10 00400 SELICRIK ROSE (10) (D) J Green 4 8 7 A Childre 6 V
10 00400 SELICRIK ROSE (10) (D) J Green 4 8 7 A Childre 6 V
10 00400 SELICRIK ROSE (10) (D) J Green 4 8 7 A Childre 6 V
10 00400 SELICRIK ROSE (12) J L Harris 4 8 0 R Miclien (3) 10
10 00400 SELICRIK ROSE (12) J L Harris 4 8 0 R Miclien (3) 10
10 00400 GOING PLACES (22) (D) K Nory 4 7 12.... C Castin (7) 1 B
10 00402 KALAR (15) (D) D Cregmen 10 7 10 P Feerey 2 B
10 00400 SETTEM C 5-1 Nitty Norman, 6-1 Blue Nice, 8-1 As-Youthounouthing, Bouckliffe Grange, 10-1 Televin's Surprises, Sourrilous, 12-1 others
FORM VERDICT

HILTONS EXECUTIVE ran well when second in a division of the event efter a break last year and should make a decent bild to go one better today

DF: £410 CSF: £549.

RACING RESULTS

TAUNTON Going: Good (Good to Soft in places)

5 ran. 2, 11/s, 4. hwinner chestrut geiding by Executive Perk out of Schemen Gritterend by D White, at Naunton, Gloucestershin, for the Negative Vibes Partnership). Tota: win 23.20; pieces 21.70, 21.20. Dual Forecast. \$2.30. Communication Communications.

6 mm. ½, 22, a distance, 7, (where chest-nut golding by Pollerton out of Truly Deep, trained by Simon Earle, at Sturminster Newton, for The PLIII Merchanist, Tobas wh dividend £490; places £280, £160. Duel Forreast £150. Computer Straight Fore-ment £140.

3.10; (2m 3l novice chase) Alico: 4-5 Andswephil, 100-1 Polo Kill Only 4 ran. won by a distance. (where bey getching by Accordion out of America, trained by P Nichola, Shepton Mellet, for Tisching Thoroughbreds Ltd). Totac win £2:10. DF: £8:20. CSF: £10.65.

D Salter 10-1

1. BATSWING ______ D Saler 10-1
2. Twinnings Grove ____ R Thornton 20-1
3. Cage Aux Folies ____ A P McCoy 4-1 Alact 6-4 fer Reid (4th), 4-1 Longstone Lad, 12-1 Go-onmyson, 20-1 Merquerte (5th), 25-1 Cashaban, 33-1 Klerney King, 40-1 Lorona (201):
10 ran. 15, 13, 15, dist, dist. (winner bay cost by Batahoof out of Magic Milly, trained by B R Milman, at Culturoton, for Fichard Withers). Total: win dividend £1360; places 2250, £250, £270. Dual Forecast. £14470. Conora (5th)

4.10: (2m 1f saling huntle)
1. TRUE VISION ____A P McCoy 4-9 fev
2. Allogiance _____D Matthews 25-1
3. Mutassil ______G Bradley 10-1

Also ram: 6-1 Master Woodstick, 9-1 Francesca's Folly (4th), 25-1 Candy Twist, 50-1 Wicked Game, 50-1 Wilet Winch.

2110, 2240, 2110, DF: 2570, CSF: 21668.

£940; places £250, £110, £480 DF: £2080. ÇŞF: £4106. S.10: (2m If novice handcap hurdle)

1. LAFFAH AP McCoy 4-1

2. Jelb R Parrant 9-4 tav

3. Mir Lerol R Thorston 9-1

Also: 4-1 Wild Hedeer (4th, 13-2 Decot, 12-1 Pablots Jet (8th), 19-1 Frame of Mind, 25-1 My Lost Love (5th), 50-1 Dankeite.

9 ran. 4, 10, 14, 10, 2½, (where bey cot by Silver Hewk out of Saklyah, trained by M Pipe, Wellington, for Richard Green (Fine Parrillogs). Tota: win 53.80; places 53.0, 518.0 DF: £8.30 CSF; £12.33. Tricast: £87.51.

Jeokpot: £7,00.00 (part won, pool of

by Simon T Lewis for himself). This: win

Place 6: £5630. Place 5: £3106.

PLUMPTON Going: Soft 2.00: 1. JOHNSTON'S ART (B Powel) evens far, 2. Guillible Guy 5-1; 3. Pirate Min-strel 50-1. 7 ran. 14, 13. (R Bucider). Tota: Rumens: Peasedown Totana. 2.30: 1. KINGDOM OF SHADES (R Durwoody) 4-9 fav; 2. Keily Mac 9-4; 3. Deep Refrain 16-1. 4 ran. 27, dsz. (Mass Venetia

Williams), Toba: £140, DF: £130, CSF: £187. 3.00: 1. WHIRLAWHILE (S Kely) 2-15 fav 2. In Good Order 25-1: 3. Castle Hill 33-1 5 mm. 13, 22 (Mes Venete Williams) Total C1/0; C1/0, C2/90, DF: F2/20, CSF: £449 3.30: 1. SURANOM (J F Totay) 7-4 tar; 2. Tuesse of Lies 2-1: 3. When hosts 9-2.7 ran. Thester of Lies 2-1; 3. Bharnisade 9-2-7 ran. 24, 22 (Mrs D Haine). Total: £270; £130, £150 DF: £350. CSF: £537. 4.00: 1. FUIL OF BOUNCE (P Holey) 12-1; 2. No Matter 11-4; 3. Scoble Girl 5-2 4 ran. 5-4 fav Regel Aura (4th). 12, 1/4 (R Hodges). Tote: £1830. DF: £140. CSF: £3701. NF: Scawo.

4.30: 1. WESTERLANDS QUEEN (Ar A Charles-lones) evens tar; 2. My Best Man 5-4; 3. Pinoccio 14-1 5 mm. 13, dist. (H Manners) Teter \$210; \$210, \$110, DF: \$150, CSF: Placepot: \$9490, Quadpot: \$33.50, Place 6: £ 32.55, Place 5: £1963.

Going: Heavy

1.50: 1. Y'R 'UMBLE (R Ferrant) 50-1; 2. Lettylak 9-1; S. Ballynabragget 7-1.9 cm., 4-6 fev Caldanus (Rth). '/-, 4. (J K S Cresswell, Stoke-on-Trent). Tota: win £58.40; places 2880, \$230, \$110, Dual Forecast: £275.40. Computer Straight Forecast: £37198.

2.20: 1, JOCKS CROSS (N Willamson) 1-12

ter, 2. Arms Display 12-1; 3. Cherry Orchid 25-1, 3 ram. 4., 20. (Miss Vensus Williams, Hereford). Tota: \$110. Dual Forecast: \$130. CSF: £146. 2.80: 1. STAMFORD HILL (R.Johnson) 4-1: 2. Rusk 7-4 by, 3. Balmoral Princess 10-1, 9 ran. 5, hd. (M Pipe, Wellington). Tota: 6450; £170, £150, £200, DF: £520, CSF: £1038, Win-

ner was bought in for 3,500 guiness.

3.20: 1. ROUNDWOOD (G Cotter) 6-5 fev,

2. Monicasman 9-4; 3. Indian Tracker 18-1. 4 ran. B. dist. (D Hughes). Tota: \$200. Dust Forecast: £2.30. CSF: £3.91. Only three fig-3.50: 1. WESLEY'S LAD (DJ Burchell) 7-4; 2. The Brewmaster 7-2, 3. Marigitano 11-10 tex 3 ran. 3.30. (D Burchel, Ebbw Vale). Tipes:

1210 Duel Forecast \$290 CSP: \$556.

2. Tomcappagh 8-1; 3. Richean 50-1, 14 ran. 10, dist. (trained by Mrs Caroline Bailey, Holdorby), Tota: \$170; \$110, \$270, \$110 DF. \$480. CSF: \$481, NR: Mr Pinball. 4.50; 1. LINIYAN (R Watsh) 10-11 fav. 2. Tom Cobbier 11-2; 3. Royal Yankee 7-1 8 ran. 6, 31/r. (Miss Veneta Williams, Hereford). Tote: win \$180; places \$130, \$140, \$200.

21740: sopot: \$11720. Quadpot: \$1740.

Place 6: £53.54 Place 5: £8.57.

YTHE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS CHELTENHAM 971 981 972 SOUTHWELL 973 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

il Cover you're covere

Istabraq the heavyweight champion JP McManus called at Bally-doyle recently to ask if it would be at all possible, if you didn't be at all possible at all

mind, to have a quick look at his same route. He jumps only one horse Istabraq. No. was the reply, from the gelding's trainer Aidan O'Brien. And, you

know, JP didn't mind one bit. "Aidan told me the horse was having his midday nap," the great punting owner told The Independent. We could go and have a cup of tea, but we had to leave him alone for an hour and a half. But the horse wasn't to be disturbed."

Even for a racehorse, Istabraq is a funny creature. He wakes up at a exactly the same time each morning and does exactly the same amount of routine work along exactly the

hurdle at home all year. He is virtually institutionalised

It has to be this way with the seven-year-old because, like many brilliant athletes, he is on the verge of being bonkers. "He can go in an instant," O'Brien says.

When you take Istabraq away from the comfort of accustomed surroundings he starts to panic. At the Chel- a small-looking horse but he's tenham Festival 12 months ago he sweated profusely before his race. The previous year he was even worse and you could have him now. He's just getting filled a cistern with the creamy stronger and stronger. perspiration that dripped from

from Istabraq at 3.15 this aftermoon is that on both those occasions the horse won. His running more than made up for

any mental fragility.

And Istabraq has changed this year His mind seems clearer, his body is different too. We ssociate the champion with the sleek lines of the Flat horse he was bred to be, but now there is substance to him. "He's very deceiving," O'Brien says. "He's almost 16.1 [hands high]. He has a different look about "He's very straightforward

a good chance. His races have been a lot easier this year than

It is a wonder to understand

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Step On Eyre (Cheltenham 3.55) NB: Ebullient Equipame

(Cheltenham 5.05)

from where O'Brien gets this last belief - Istabraq has not had a race this season. He has had four canters which just happen to have been conducted in the forum of a race at the track. The trainer himself ad-

who dare take him on this aftermoon. (Of the 17 which opposed last season only his Bellator, a 66-1 chance, have the

nerve to try again). Foremost among the challengers is French Holly, who was runner-up to Istabraq at Leopardstown in January. That result was a rare creature: a one-length annihilation.

French Holly had previously proved he was Britain's best a place consideration as he protagonist in the Christmas has been runner-up for the last Hurdle at Kempton Like Ista- two years. He usually plods

the Champion Hurdle crown work easier and that gives him rated into the schedule as a spectively) and a former winner did not win in Co Kilkenny, but piece of fine-tuning. This is a of the Royal & SunAlliance then he did not have his cars cataclysmic thought for the 13 Hurdle, a contest he won by 14 pushed off either. lengths last year.

Indeed, if Istabraq was not around, connections of French stablemate Theatreworld and Holly could quite sensibly see off at daybreak to be given a several seasons at the top over timber for their horse. As it is to win a three-runner, sportsthough, the behemoth who looks as though he should be kept in a hangar rather than a box may be forced to go over fences if he is humiliated again Hurdle is about to be returned today.

braq he is both sired by a Clas- along all season with a prep-

at Gowran Park. This time he nial winner is no longer a fea-

After that in the betting lists we are down to the likes of Lady Cricket, who would need to set chance. It was a struggle for her day race at Fontwell last time. The rest have little chance on any known earth form.

It appears the Champion to its glory years, when it was an uplifting contest dominated by multiple winners. Night Nurse, Monksfield and Sea Pigeon were dual victors of the Seventies and early Eighties, beaten.

ture. See You Then was the law horse to follow up in completing his hat-trick in 1987.

Istabraq is now a bigger horse, both in physique and achievement, as we emberg. on the Cheltenham Festival of 1999. He seeks to emulate Monksfield, who was the last dual Irish winner, in 1978 and 1979, and there is no cogent argument which suggests he is

not up to the assignment. Racing people are not abla to say this very many times at the Festival, but this year, in the last Champion Hurdle of the millennium, we can say it about Istabraq (3.15), He cannot be

Ice warriors: Jamie Osborne puts the final touches to the preparation of his Cheltenham hope Lord Of The River over a frosty fence in Lambourn

£200 credit available today.*

(Would you credit it?)

CMUSTING										
SMURFIT CHA	SMURFIT CHAMPION HURDLE									
	n %f Cheltenham 3.15pm.									
1/2 Istabraq	40/1 Bellator									
9/2 French Holly	40/1 City Hall									
10/1 Theatreworld	40/1 Zafarabad									
18/1 Lady Cricket	50/1 Midnight Legend									
20/1 Blowing Wind	50/1 Tiutchev									
33/1 Grey Shot	66/1 Mister Morose									
33/1 Nomadic	66/1 Upgrade									
E/W one-quarter the	odds a place 1,2,3.									
These prices may have changed s For the very latest prices, page	INCO INIS RESISTABLE WAS Arriched									

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Ladbrokes

For a bet, Ladbrokes are favourite.

The Fly can make up for my missing year

IT IS the Holy Grail of National Hunt racing. Many tracks in England and Ireland stage festivals but for jockeys there is only one genuine event, and that takes place on three days at Cheltenham this week.

Leaving aside the Grand National, the 20 races staged today, most important tomorrow and Thursday are quite simply the most important, prestigious and keenly fought of the season. Outside, in the stands, in the bars and marquees, it is a punters' paradise set in a bacchanal. But for us. during these three days nothing else matters, the out-

side world ceases to exist. It is hard to imagine a greater contrast than that between the atmosphere in the changing room at Cheltenham There will be around 100 jockeys at the Festival this week. For most of us it is the culmination of months of hard work. a daily grind of early-morning riding out, followed by long car journeys to remote tracks. The constant slog of competition can take some of the buzz away but even the most hardened proticipation when Cheltenham is

mentioned We have fought for the best rides and now it is time to go into battle. This is our chance lack any enthusiasm. I am conto ply our trade on a bigger fident that given normal luck in stage, to make some money, to bathe in a bit of glory and to leave an indelible mark in racing's history books.

Jamie Osborne, who joins our team for the Festival, gives a jockey's view of the

week of the season and highly charged. I have seen a realistic chance of finishing in men in tears, I have seen them the frame. It is hard to see anyfighting, and I have seen them beside themselves with the eu-

phoria of winning. There is nothing else like it. Riding a winner at Cheltenham is one of the greatest thrills in the sport. This year I have a solid book of rides to help and what is going on outside. me achieve that goal. Barry Hills and Ian Balding are trainers more readily associated with Royal Ascot but they provide me with my first two rides.

Barry Hills and I teamed up in 1992 to win the Stayers' Hurdle with Nomadic Way and this year we have a realistic chance of adding to that victory with The Fly. While he has only fessional pilots light up with an jumped once in public when winning a novices' event at Newbury in February, his style of hurdling is quick and accurate and he certainly doesn't running he can outclass a

strong Irish challenge. Ian Balding's Grey Shot would prefer to be running on Of course the atmosphere in firmer ground than we will ex- great one for me and Chel-



thing beating last year's winner, Istabraq, but the race for the places is wide open.

Kadou Nonantais has sensibly side-stepped tomorrow's Royal & SunAlliance Novices Chase, leaving me free to partner Lord Of The River in that race, the staying-novice chasers' championship. Kadou Nonantais instead runs in today's William Hill Handicap Chase and I believe that his bold front-running style will create trouble for the opposition

and he can make all to win. Today's rides are completed by Ebullient Equiname in the Stakis Casinos Final Nicky Henderson's charge holds solid claims in a race in which the winner will not be easy to find.

For me, this year's Cheltenham is more significant than any other. I had competed every season since 1986 until last year when I was forced, through injury, to miss out for the first time.

Last year was not exactly a the changing room is tense perience today but he still holds tenham was the low point. I re-

member standing rejuctantly at the edge of the paddock trying to sound cheerful and enthusiastic in front of the Racing Channel cameras, while inside I was experiencing the flip side of Cheltenham euphoria.

My left hand, injured in a fall five months before, was still cold, deformed and rigid. I was on police bail, having been arrested in January at the start of the cack-handed Metropolitan Police investigation into racing. I was convinced that everyone around me was certain I was guilty. I doubted if I would ever ride again, and worst of all my mother had just bollocked me for being scruffy. I felt that I had lost the ability to achieve the changes which would get me back in the middle of the paddock, rather than on its edge.

Today, 12 months later, I can smile at these memories and be thankful that I will be back in the place which I was afraid I had left for good. My hand is back to normal, and the police investigation exonerated me But last year's experience made me realise the power that Cheltenham has to height en the senses and magnify emotions. I may have entered the winner's enclosure a dozen times in other years, but to do it again this week would mean

1 0-3554 BELLATOR (17) (0) 6yo CSt Owner: P Richardson Trainor: CSS V Wilary's	N Williamson	4
Form: Stayed on at one pace to finish 2. I engite touch to Go4 Hurde at Haydook Din, soft after Instrugated of a High control In Champon Hurde Trail at Haydook Chr. soft).	remai n Sanc Katar Perand	
Summary, Useful handicapper who came good in the soring lost the Grand National meeting at Author However needs further the the class to make an arrand in this lave.	11 ನೀಡದ ಅದ್ದು	
Going of Distance : Jumping of Reting	124	
Owner: P Dest Trainer: M Fee	. R Dunwoody	S
Form: Ran on one paced when the lengths except to Constant Hurde at Haydock (3m, soff), a length wheat of Bellator (40 octor	off sharing Pro-	
vicusly fel fifth in Champion Hundle That at Haydook (2011 5000) Summary: Useful franciscoper with a turn of foct who won the properties	Grisn t w	
and the County Handscap Hunde at last year's Firston's but labors the an impact at champonship laye.	•	
Goling / Distance / Jumping Rating	129	
3 2-4332 CRTY HALL (31) (D) Syd Cst	A Thompson	4
Form: Stayed on well when arrea lengths second to Decoupage in pay Handicap Hurdle at Nowbury (2m 170-pts, good) other fine-leng	`ವಾಡಿಚ ಗಿಂ	
finite to Moonsh at Newbury (3m 100/cs. fr:3m.). Summery: Runner up in Trumph handle at Last year's Festival and		
into a useful handcopper this term. Needs substantial improvement form to hold more than an each-son change how however	t on all wown	
Going / Distance / Jumping / Rating :	25	
4 1-P2/2 FRENCH HOLLY (51) (C) (D) 8y2 CC: Owner: K Rood Baloer: F Murphy	. A Thornton	4
TORRIC LEG UND RESIDED DES WHEN A length secret to bridge on b	ah Champan 🕝	
as Bended by time lengths in Chardrons Humburs to Konnector Con. of	testes tas	
summary: Won Royal & SunAlarrae Novae Hunde over the Statist val and impressive at Kempton but statist outcomed by isothop in the	s uses festi Gest and the	
reason why he should fare any better today. Sometimes make a mest Going of Distance "Jumping Rating 14	<u>a4,5</u> ≔ €	
5 - 1251 GREY SHOT (19) (CD) 770 1251		
1 UNDER: H HETERS TERINARY / RT-14nn	J Osbone	3
Forms Led two out when bearing Midnight Legend pib bottly introduction from good to soft. Providing 53 km Lady Rebessa in Classe Huntle at Chatestron Con 1 Total Control Con 1 Total Con	adita extre article	
Summary: Speedy ex-Fixt performer who true to the same and the	ortomas and	
and a resided to make metales.	at est popy	
Going of Distance of Jumping Rating 12	}	
United a Property of the Control of	-CFSmen	<u>a</u>
Form: Crused rife lead last when beating French Heely by a length of pon Hurde of Leopardscown (Zm. heavy). Previously best Stortarth by a December Several	insh Chem-	
as concurred testing that the statement of the partial		
Summary: Britant 12-length somer of this tope and season, books been this term. Hus both speed and stamma, acts on any going and, if he best look sure to defend his Champon Hunder's title in rare style.	interpretation	
Going & Distance & Jumping & Ruting 149		
7 1332 MIDNIGHT LEGEND (19) (T) An Time		
Form: First standy when 2" transfer personal to Constitution 2"	•	2
ter Seveled by short-head in Aris Headle of Several Previously made all k	beat Mas	
- and has shown some useful from the term. Mostly to make and all		
ton to hold much chance here. Brough Going ? Distance Jamping Rating 114		
A STRIBL METER MODORE man area		<u> </u>
	Liewellyn 4	<u>Š</u> u
to soft). Previously unsealed rider on out in Distriction Manage Crase at Kampton.	Gm. good hetterham	
Senment: Former smart hunder who has not comply the total		
Stays well and probably needs further than two-and-half miles. That each	theblan	

BIG-RACE FIELD

3.15 CHAMPION HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £240,000 added 2m 110yds £139.200

9 121251 NOMADIC (24) (D) Syo 12st P Carborry
Owner; D P Stratiery Trainer; N Meade (M)
Form: Led approaching last and ran on well when bearing Limestone Lad by 11:
lengths in Red Mills Trial Hundle at Gowran Park (2m, soft to heavy). Previously a
distance fifth to latabraig in Insh Champton Hundle at Leopardstown (2m heavy).
Summary: Strait handcap hundle who stays 2m 4 and has been in good form
this season. Likely to be outpaced over this distance, however, and no reason why
he should turn Leopardstown tables on the favourite.

Golng of Distance 7 Jamping of Retling 126

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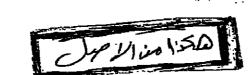
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BETTING: 1-2 letabraq, 9-2 French Holly, 12-1 Theatreworld, 16-1 ing Wind, 33-1 City Hall, Grey Shot, Novascie, 40-1 Bellator, Tlutei right Legend, 56-1 Upgrade, 100-1 Mister Morose 1998 Istabraq 6 12 0 C F Sean 3-1 fav (A P C'Brien/hl) 19 ran

investigation exonerated me. But last year's experience	10-VE o D
made me realise the power that Cheltenham has to height-	10-YEAR-TALE ON THE CHAMPION HURDLE
en the senses and magnify	1989 90 91 82 93 84 95 98 97 98 Fate of the favourities: 7 4 1 6 3 2 2/3 2 P 1 Winner's place in betting: 0 2 1 8 8 97 98
emotions. I may have entered the winner's enclosure a dozen	Winner's place in betting: 0 2 1 3 2 0 0 0 0 1
times in other years, but to do	50-195-10 4 4 6 .
it again this week would mean more to me than at any other	
time.	Profit or loss to £1 stake: Favourites -£100 Second Favourites +£1087
Jamie Osborne will carry the	Shortest-priced winner; Kriberest mann and in Last rece; 100
logo of The Independent on his	Winner Beach Park
breeches and collar throughout the Cheltenham Festival	m ripe - Granville Area
	G Balding - Beach Road (1989), Morloy Street (1997) Top Jockey: No jockey has won this recent
673	Top jackey: No jackey has won this race more than once in the past 10 years



9 200 0 ■

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mpionMakounji is this time he must winner to all the part the part the rate to all the mast to there is a first to be the state of the stat

1970 And Harden in 1970 A 1970 in the property of the propert HON HURBLE (CLASS A) Grade t) C4 wedges of cash. The man doing he talking will be JP Mc-Manus, but the great unknown s whether the words will be Joe Mac" or "Cardinal Hill".

BIG RACE FIELD

Marie of Antiques () The contract of the

Self-

to lake gazay tagangan n

Marie Marie

Carlo Carlo

March 1995

gradus Palleria (A.C.)

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Both horses will go to post or the Supreme Novices' Hurle in McManus's green and Lecolours, and it is unlikely hat he will find it any easier han the rest of us to resist a bet n the first race of the Festival His choice should be obvious within seconds, as one horse charges clear at the front of the market while the other starts to

canter in the opposite direction. Many punters will not think twice before sending the money scurrying after JP's.

Success for either could be the first step on the road to hell for the bookmakers. Winnings would be played up on Istabrag. the odds-on favourite for the Champion Hurdle, and above all Florida Pearl, Ireland's great hope for the Gold Cup on Thursday. But it is also worth recalling that even JP Mc-Manus does not get it right every time. At the last meeting at Cheltenham, he left £140,000 behind with just one bookmaker after three successive bets

And while both Joe Mac and Cardinal Hill have been laid out for the race, and probably have a great deal of improvement to

come, their odds already reflect the McManus Factor and make little appeal. Joe Mac looked sure to win the Bumper here last year with a furlong to run, but could not get past Alexander Bauquet up this hill, which is not what you look for in a second-favourite, while Cardinal Hill's jumping was far from fluent when he was second to

Of course, there is no shortage of alternatives. Martin Pipe's Hors La Loi III and his stablemate Auetaler both have good chances on form, although if the latter is anything like his owners, Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman, he will finish in mid-division. The best bet, though, is sure-

the same horse last time out.

ly The Fly (2.00), who is by some way the most accomplished horse in the race. Third in the 1997 St Leger, he also fin-



Head of the market: Florida Pearl, the favourite for the Gold Cup and one of the Irish bankers for the meeting, takes the air at the track yesterday Julian Herbert/Allsport

ished fifth in the Derby, and although he comes to Cheltenham after just one run over hurdles, he has come through many tough battles on the Flat.

"The plan was to give him two runs before the Festival," Barry Hills, The Fly's trainer, said yesterday, "but we've had one of the exceptional wet years of all time, so we've had to make the best of what we've got. He's schooled every week since he ran, and jumped 48 hurdles in practice. He's made the odd mistake, but they've got to

make the odd mistake to learn, like everyone else in life."

Hills has not had a runner at Cheltenham since Nomadic Way won the Stayers' Hurdle in 1992. "I'm looking forward to it, it'll do the adrenalin good," he said. "I don't know much about the Irish horses, but we're running a horse with a lot of class who jumps well and will travel well through the race. He's got a very good chance."

His Song will be another Irish favourite in the Arkle Trophy, but he too failed to quick-

With the ground drying out, he may be beaten for speed by MAKOUNJI (nap 2.35), who gets weight and sex allowances and has more than enough talent to exploit them. Keep some money aside too for Eulogy (next best 3.55), who has slipped into the handicap chase with a very fair weight, and Pape Kharisma (5.05). The latter appears wildly overpriced at 20-1 on his form behind Lady

Rebecca last time out. More racing, page 23

Torduff Express: Easily won uncompetitive race at Ascot (3m, good to soft) off 12s. Wall beaten in Welsh National and well held (off 133) at Sandown, Back to 131 here Linden's Lotte: in sucelest form, wrining two cross-country races here at 3m+ (good and good to soft) and handicap at Nevan (2m4), heavy), at of them comfortably Rightsaidfired: Solid 3m11 form on very soft ground, beating Ask Antony 311 lengths at Newbury (11b higher here) and 2 lengths second to Ramalain at Youcester Time For A Rore: 2m4 and 3m1 in 181 two numbings of the race. 10b lower than in 1896 after not quite hitting best this term, mostly at 2m41, Looks well treated, but now a 12yo Shanagarry: Birkowtof and well handicapped for very at Massaburgh and Kelso last two starts. Not ruided out by ownelly, but has a pather werevert until the choson states. streaming any to whether and were marginapped for which is a numerically and resold and two starts. Not ruled out by penelty, but has a either wayward attitude closing stages. Time Won't Wait: Racad at 2m before this sesson. Below-form second at 2m5f penufitimate start. Has failed to complete on 3 tries at 3m, with burst blood vessel on latest Frazer falsent: Decent chance on his fourth over 2m6f at this meeting in 1998. Two creditable efforts this term before never-dangeous severals in Great Vortaining Chase AR Thu Aces: 2nd and 7th in last two runnings of Mildmay Of Flate (2m4f). Poor effective starts are severally as the second of the In small hear over 3m31 hare in november but was near at Chepstow an December Cab On Targest: Veloran, second in 1997 Fourthers. CSD wenter of 6-runner hand-cap this term and 9% lengths third to Mejor Bell in the Great Yorkshire at Doncaster Strong Telt Four runs in novice chases, third at Chepstow and winning at Plumpton (3m1), soft) but twice disappointing with jumping errors. Handicapped on handles from Wandering Light: 16-length winner of 4m National Hunt Chase winner in 1998, saelly best effort. Lightly raced because of leg problems, some promise on respectance Orswell Lack Last year's 4th off 2b higher. Off course 11 months before reasonable 15% lengths third of 6 finishers to Sparlding Cone at Chepstow (heavy) 13 days ago Calnoter. Progressed well to win 3 novice turbles lest term. Favourse, jumped well to win novice chases at Wisnaick (2m4f) and Hareford (2m1). Promising and unexposed: Carlingford Galle: Mostly in good form the term, winning at Uttoseter and Ludow, but pulled up in the Great Voltachine 15 to win to latest win (left clear at the last) looks steep Noyan: Won at Punchestown Festival (3m1), good) for Richard Pahey in 1997, but off 19 months afterwards. Best run since when 44 lengths shift in the Great Voltachine last time scotton Green: Jumps well best efforts with through text of handlesp. 8b lower this time after showing little this season, 23% lengths fifth in the Great Voltachine last time Scotton Green: Jumps well. Best efforts with through text of Shore Party at Uttoseter Tell The Nipper: 15 % lengths fourth in National Hunt Handlesp in 1998 off 128. Down Cab On Target: Voteran, second in 1997 Fostiumers, C&D wither of 6-runner hand events at Haydock and Catterick and very good second to Shore Party at Utioniter Tell The Nipper: 15% lengths fourth in National Hunt Handicap in 1998 off 26. Down to 12 now after very Inconsistent season. First run since leaving Michael Houngan Stanmons: Inconsistent, and was tried in blinkers (reft) perutitmes start. 1% lengths second of 4 to Symbol Of Success at Ludlow (3m, good to soft) 12 days ago Eloutis: Ex-French. Very despointing over hurdles first three starts here. Did better with ascond of 4 over fences at Newtury (2m44, good to soft), but stiff bask on that Calific Glants: Won at Museelburgh by 10 lengths. Best efforts on sound surface. Nearly 28 attempts at 3m have been when ground wee too soft, but should be suited by it Crabapple Hill: Won novices at Stration and Bergor last surface for David Nicholson. First run for 3 months and for new stable when pulled up at Cat ted/felf on 3 of 6 chasing starts. Won two of the others, from Scr VERDICT: in the last 15 years, the Irish have enjoyed only one victory in the hand-losp chases at the Festival, but LINDEN'S LOTTO can add enother here. He is in ex-

5.05	B) £45,000 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £28,950	(CLASS
/45P31	PHARAMEAR (17) (CD) (Stainless Threaded Federals) D Nicholson 9 12 0 J	R Thombos
	TORBOY (45) (Paul Green) M Pipe 9 ti 8.	
	BOSUNS MATE (19) (C) (Howard Parker) N Twiston-Davies 6 10 9	
	KINGS MEASURE (31) (J H Wilson, M Ellott, D Blackett) J M Jeffeson 6 '70'	
	GALANT MOSS (FR) (St) (CM , B J & R F Batterhent) M Pipe 5 10 7 FLYING GUNNER (32) (D) (Mis R J Stan) D Nicholson 8 10 6	
	THEREE FARTHINGS (36) (Ms Joan British) J Old 9 105	
	SWEET GLOW (FR) (95) (C) (M C Ppc) M Ppc 12 104	
	PAPO KHARISMA (74) (C) (The Hadonists) P Hotte 9 104	
	JAMAICAN FLIGHT (USA) (F41) (BF) (P Lampman) Mrs S Lemyman 8 t) 3	
	MELODY MAID (36) (R Parish, B Griffiths) N Handeston 7 103	
	EBUILLIENT EQUINANTE (35) (Lynn Wilson) N Henderson 8 10 3	
	GENEROSA (66) (Mrs T E Hyde) J Hessett (M) 6 10 1	
	NOCKSKY (31) (Terry Nell) M Pipe 6 10 0	
	JAZZ TRACK (95) Bilabolin B Jones) M Pipe 5 10 0	
	ABOO HOM (18) (Kentrec Pic) M Pipe 5 10 0	
	THE BUTTERMACK KID (15) (SF) (R Chembers & Mas M Kenyon) R Fahey 5 100	
	SHANNON GALE (79) U.P. McManusi C. Roche (4) 7 100	
3/24	NEBALDA (44) (Patrick Furlancy P Notan (trl) 7 10 0	CODENT
	HARBOUR ISLAND (22) (Metcoin B Jones) M Pipe 7 10 0	
FFU3-5	JOLIVER (24) (D) (C R Real) M Pipe 11 10 0	W Marston

1908: Unsintable Boxer 9 10 12 A P McCov 5-2 fav (M Pros) 24 ran

Pherameer: Won this rece off top weight in 1997. Back to near that form with 8-length win from Arcum in limited handloop at Kempton latest start. Acts on any going Tactory: 14 lengths second to French Hotly in Grade 1 hurdle (2m5f, good) here last year. Reportedly lost a plate when pulled up on respectance. Should stay 3m2f Bossons Matter. Progressive novice who excels in a thorough test of stemins. Won on soft surface here and at Newbury this winter. Game effort over shorter trip latest start. Kings Measure: Ran unaccountably bady penultimate start, but wire over 2m and 2mel starts either side augured well, perticularly as this trip should suit him botter Gelent Mose: Good form in France. Has had three runs under automate top weight (ower marks than this) here, best effort and some promise when stepped up to 2m6/ for his third to impressive Kates Charm at Uttowster (heavy) latest outing

PROFESSIONAL PUNTER

SIMON 'DODGER' McCARTNEY

YOU COULD take £1 million to Cheltenham today and still come home with nothing that's how

hard this afternoon's card iooks. However, there is one horse I fancy today to win

and that's LINDEN'S LOTTO in the Kim Muir.

He is a winner around the course and will stay every yard of the distance up the hill. There are a lot of horses in the race which can't possibly win and my horse has a

competent rider booked. Istabrao is impossible to get beat in the Champion Hurdle. I've been through the race and I just can't find one to beat him. However, at the odds, I'm not

telling you anything worth knowing. The rest of the card is very difficult. The races are extremely open and the favourites should start at fair prices as the on-course layers will be keen to get

CHELTENHAM

2.00: If the rave reviews from Ireland are to be believed, this will be a stroll for Cardinal Hill. A bome gallop last week apparently convinced onlookers this gelding can now realise his huge potential. Joe Mac also enjoys an awesome reputation, but has taken a walk in the betting market over the past few days. But the Irish challenger rho attracts at decent odds is COLONEL YEAGER, Richard Dunwoody's mount has had more hurdling experience than either Cardinal Hill or Joe Mac and will be stay-

2.35: Four five-year-olds get what could be a decisive weight pull over their elders. One of them, Makounji, receives an extra 5lb mares' allowance - though she may find others too fast today. The ouaintly-named Flagship

ing on stoutly up the long

climb to the winning post.

HYPERION'S

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TV TIPS

in top form, but GRIS D'ES-TRUVAL's bold-jumping win at Newbury 10 days ago was highly impressive. His Song is a solid alternative to the younger brigade. 3.15: City Hall is worthy of

consideration by those looking for a long-shot. But ISTABRAQ looks sure to bring the house down. 3.55: Island Chief seemed un-

sited by Haydock's dropfences last time out but, if regaining his usual assured jumping technique, is very handily weighted here. Macgeorge has been laid out for this prize. But the progressive STEP ON EYRE, unbeaten this season, can carry the famous Arkie colours to victory here.

Today: Overnight foo and frost

Uberalles hails from a stable

should clear this morning. A chilly start will be followed by a mild afemoon with sunny spells and light winds. The temperature will xeak at 12-13 degrees.

Tomosrow: Another want and

Thursday: Cold but dry start followed by surmy spells. Possibility

of rain late in the afternoon

CHELTENHAM WEATHER

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CHELTENHAM 5.05 CHLST

CHELTENHAM

HYPERION

3.55 Step On Eyre 2.00 Colonel Yeage 4.30 Celtic Giant 2,35 Gris D'Estruval (nb) 5.05 THREE FARTHINGS (nap)

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in a few places).

E two latithend, galoping courses in use at this meeting (both with stiff fences). Steep until a new of Softer.

upon numer of 2010.

III Course is in N of town off A435. Bus link from Cheltenham rail station (served by Bristol, Birmingham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMISSION: Club 250; Tattersalls 230; Courage Enclosure 215. CAR PARK: 25.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

SUPREME NOVICE HURDLE (Grade 1) (CLASS A) £80,000 added 2m 110yds Pen. Vai. £45,960

ets, white cap

emerald green and owings hosped, white cap.
2002 PERFECT VENUE (10) (3) (3F) (4) Participantly (1) Henderson 6 til 8 ____ IR Kevenagh owings, block disc, helved sleeves, black cap.

1/6) WITHER OR WHICH (21) (D) (HIDERT STEER) IN FRANCE OF STEER OF S

BETTRIC: 94 Cardinal Hill, 7-2 Joe Mac, 5-1 The Fly, 6-1 Hors La Loi III, 8-1 Colonal Yeager, 16-1 Austric, Wither Or Which, 20 All Group, Ricardo, 33 Prominent Profile, Hoh lawader, 40-1 others 1995, Franch Bellering 5 11 3 G Braciley 10-1 (P Flynn/M) 30 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

All Gong: Only defect over hurdles came on heavy ground in January. Bounced back to whit vice at Doncaster (2m & 2/sm) and will be suited by strongly-run race Artis: Fency: 2nd to Premier Generation on debut at Warwick (2m, soft) in December and viert on to win 2 minor events. Big step up in class and likely to struggle Austaler. Successful 5 fema on the Plat in Germany. Easy winner on debut at Taunton (2m), good to soft). Hard to assess, but traiter won this in 1989 with Sondhis Brown Lack Front-nume, led until headed at the list when 9 length 2nd to Ashley (3nt at Sandown (2m, good) lest morth. Does not look good enough (2m) good to soft). Hard to assess, but traiter won this in 1989 with Sondhis Brown Lack Front-nume, led until headed at the list when 9 length 2nd to Ashley (3nt at Sandown (2m, good) lest morth. Does not look good enough (3nt at 18th Seeten head by Alexander Benquet (gave 5th) in November after interested which and over hundles (soft). Will be fresh after break and can go does Cafrig Geset: Runne-up in notice handless soft; but wey out of his depth Colosel Yeager: Beaten 1½ lengths when 2nd to easy winner Joe Mac (not 3th) interested (2m) proved on Patt test year, but wey out of his depth Colosel Yeager: Beaten 1½ lengths when 2nd to easy winner Joe Mac (not 3th) at Leopardstown (2m, heavy) in December and looks held on that form Copper Shalk. All-westites winner; failed to stay 2m at Concaster (good to soft) test time and can be adely discounted on what he has shown over hurdes so far their inventer. CSD winner (good to soft) heat time and can be adely discounted on what he has shown over hurdes so far their heavy in the concentration of the confidence of the starts. I have been a sealing the starts when third to The Fiy (who received 8th) and second to Florado (neceived 10th) Promising hurding debut when at Westerby (2m) good and second to The Fiy (who received 8th) and second to Florado (neceived 10th) Promising hurding debut who at Westerby (2m) for the control of the second

son, JOE MAC is fulfilling his potential over hurdes and is just given the nod over JP My junua's other numer, Carolinal Hill, Ricardo, from the stable that won this in 1996, mb, prove the pick of the home consingent, BEST OUTSIDER; All Goog. 2.35 ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY (NOVICE) CHASE (Grade 1) (A) £100,000 added 2m £57,300

list when beating Behralan 3'/4 langths over C&D (soft) on latest. Very promising Treasure Chest: Pulled up at Fontwell and Wincarton (blinkered) 3 months lates

VERDICT: Rumperup to Alexander Benquet in the Champion Bumper here last see

-TUCS ADVOCAT (18) (D) (BF) (High Street Syndicate) N Mesote (ch) 9 11 8 _____ N Villameson extend green and yellow quantered, exceeding green allowers, pellow armitets, shipped cap. 21-111 ASHAMADDA GOLD (24) (D) (The key Syndicate) T Tale 7 11 8 _____ Collegion

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FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Advocat: Yet to win over lances. Unable to quicken 2 out when 4th (beaten 21 langifle) to 14s Song at Leopardistown (2m11, heavy) in January, so chance looks remote Aphaevadda Gold: Has really staten to fances and completed a has trick at Newcastie (2m, good to soft) test morett. Yet to beat anything of note, but jumps well Cockney Led: Top-class hurdlet, Good form over lances, but beaten 51/s lengths when 3rd to 14s Song (gave 7to) at Leopardistown (2m11, lanuary). In January Feathered Leader: Lightly acced, still a making over fences and beaten 25 lengths when 7th to 14s Song is Leopardistown (2m11, soft) in December. Gazatent: Has been highly tried over fences in Instand and put up his beat performance when a 5-length 2ml to Cockney Lad at Punchestown (2m1, heavy) is at moreth. His Song: Best of lish; Has won 4 of his 5 starts over fences and had Cockney Lad in 3rd and Advocat 4th when whining at Leopardistown (2m11, heavy) in January. Native-Darrig: Improving with sepertence over fences and has won his last 2 outlings at Thurles (heavy) and Nesse (soft, with Cockney Lad 3rd, beaten 4th lengths). Nipper Read: Pront-runes, so will be taken on by Aghawadda Gold. Virtuelly left at start when 5th to Collate last time. Whene at Newtoury (2m11, heavy) before that Non Vintage: Fair hurdier, but not nearly as good over fences. Besten 12 lengths when 4th at Luciow (2m, good) last time. Connections should enjoy their day out. Wymyard Knights Sound jumper and slammad Saturday's Sandown when Netwe Charm by 12 lengths at Doncaster (2m, good) in January. Should not be far away.

Wymerd Knight: Sound jumper and alammed Seturity's Seriction retrief histor Chem-by 12 lengths at Doncaster [2m, good in Jacuery. Should not be far away Flagastip Uberaties: Consistent, just held off Tresor De Mai (see 4b) by a head at Warwick (2m, good to soft) lest month. Improving, but his may prove too competitive Grits D'Estravait: Won 5 times over tences in France, Easy task when making all at Newbury [2*/em, soft) lest time and almost certainly better then he has shown so far Tresor De Matt Beaton head by Flagatip Uberates (gave 4b) at Warwick (2m, good to soft) lest time. Winner over tences in France and twice here, but Pipe accord string Mallorungs Improving and completed a het-trick over fences at Kempton (2*/em, soft) last roomth. Birdered for the tirst time and may need sotter ground.

VERDICT: Narth Pipe has wen this for the last two seasons and there is every chance that we have not seen the best of Gris D'Estruval yet. His Song is the best of the lish contenders, but at the lisely odds the value in an open looking event could be WYNNARD KRISCHT, who may get Mary Perelly of if the mark at the Pestival and give the North their first Arkle winner since 1988, BEST OUTSIDER: Native-Darrig.

3.15 CHAMPION HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £240,000 2m 110yds (Card opposite page)

3.55 NATIONAL HUNT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £60,000 added 3m 1f Pensity Value £38,600

black, pellow stars, black aleanes, yellow stap /1145 SANTA CONCERTO (24) (D) (John Con) L Lungo 10 10 8....

mercon and royal bits (purchased, copal bits sissess and cap
14 S3-P45 FBRE THYNE (S5) Febre Weigand) Mis A Ferrett 10 10 5 ______ Mi A Fitzgenild
15 255/16 BETTY'S BOY (65) (C) (T Berifeld and Mr W Brown) K Belley 10 10 2 ____ N W Milliameon

Affinitum weight: 10st, True handlesp weight: Shore Party Ser 16s. BETTING: 4-1 Step De Byre, 5-1 Radiou Honemisis, 7-1 Island Chief, 9-1 Seria Concerto, 10-1 Randral Harvest, Calling Wint, 11-1 Enlays, 14-1 Ring Lucifier, Macageorge, 16-1 others 1988: Unguided Messle 10 11 10 P Carberry 10-1 (G Richerds) 13 ren

FORM GUIDE

Unguided Missile: On the same mark as when winning this last season. Beaten 101/e lengths when 3rd to Terreshold and Mecgacrige over C&D (good) in December Mecgacrige: Hendicapper has him in the greep and beaten 18 lengths by Pandom Hervest Srd) when 4th to General Wolfe at Heydock (Pin, soft) in Jerusry Terreshold off Mecgacrige by 111/e lengths over C&D (good) in December, but has disappointed since then ard meets the 2nd on 3th worse terms. Random Hervest: had Mecgacrige (4th), Neithen Lad (5th) and Ceiling Wild (6th) behind when 3rd to General Wolfe at Heydock (pin, soft) in January. 12th higher than when winning at Wetherby (3nd 1 and) in December. Dome Samoural: Out-and-out stays, but needs plantly of driving along and hes taken no interest last 3 outings. Still 10 above his highest winning mark. One to Ignore Redevour (Pin, good to soft) last time. May well be under-mind. Earthmowir: Won Fortunitiest over 31/en (good) here lest assaum. Has talled to non up to his best in 3 outings this season and most disappointing at Heydock it is month step on Eyme Successful in 3 handlease this season, he had Samb Concerto 111/e lengths in 4th at Wetherby (Smit, heavy) in January and is 8th worse off Natisteen Lad: 1986 Sun Alience winnet has lead to soone since then, but still runs the odd good race. Acts on any going, but has yet to win a handleap over tences Calling Wild: Completed a hat-frick and then lost touch from 3 out when 35 length 6th to General Wolfe (Pandom Hervest 3nd) at Heydock (pin, but) in January. Smet notice 2 seasons and tale of the concert on his 6th to Sepo Dn Eyre at Wetherby (Smit, heavy) in January as he has an 8th put for 111/e lengths in 4th at the first of the Sepo New Year of the Sepo Possibly needed our when the same and longs well handleapped (his printer stay) in January as he has an 8th put for 111/e lengths at Wetherby (Smit, heavy) in January as he has an 8th put for 111/e lengths at Wetherby (Smit, heavy) in January as he has an 8th put for 111/e lengths (Fin Merce) in

VERDICT: Samp On Eyre has it all to do in trying to extend his unbeaten run this season of a 21b higher mark than he won off at Bangar in December. KADOU NONAN-TARS misses the Royal & SunAllence for this and it could prove a stread move. He has shown he can quicken and had a hard task when trying to concede 19th to Mejadou on his only defeat over fences here in Jenuary, BEST OUTSIDER: Jathib. 4.30 FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CUP AMATEUR HANDICAP CHASE (B) 235,000 added 3m 1f Penalty Value 224,479

— 24 declared —
Milejoure weight: 10st. Two handidae weights: Canhopple Hill Set 12th, Trentelli Set 3th.
BETTHIG: 13-2 Clinton, 7-1 Linden's Little, 5-1 Scotten Grass, 10-1 Wandering Light, 12-1 Time
For A Run, 14-1 Sharesgery, 16t Tae Nipper, 16-1 Cab On Turget, Rightsaidhret, 20-1 others
1999: In Tuth 10 9 9 Mr S Darack (5) 20-1 (S Gollings) 14 run

oelent form and still looks on an attractive mark despite having won his lest time starts; a bold show looks gustanteed under his experienced rider. Wandering Light, Scotlaggi Green and Chinton are obvious dangers, with Ceitic Glant a possibility on drying ground. Several of the others are well treated on their form last season, including Frazer felling, REST OUTSEDER: Frazer Island.

28 - 00049 CHEF PRESENTINF (21) (b) from the Post operating in Vinence of the Conference - 24 declared - 25 declared bloom - 25 declared -

FORM GUIDE

for his third to impressive Kates Charm at Uttowster (heavy) latest outing Pyling Gamer: Dour stayer, soon under pressure but game whose four times this see-sor. Up 20 higher for telest test green who are final-senheath at Newbury Three Pertitings; 3m+ should suit him well. Promising respectively will be at Wincenton and never-dangerous soith in hot race won by Reatral at Sandown, both at 2m6f Savest Glow: Veteran, lightly raced nowadays. Unvaced since his staying-on 1% lengths second of 10 to Brave Tomaco at Cheltenhem (3m, good to soit) in December Papo Kharisasa: Won five in a row (at 2m3f) before %-length second to Three Farthings on softer ground at Wincamton. Ran creditably last time. Should stay 3m2f Jassalcan Pilights: Steyer on Plat but, unraced beyond 2m6f over hundles. Consistent hundle, nearly always raced at Market Resear or Towcester. Other sets the pace littelody Nitalid: Won 6-turner race at Kempton (3m, heavy). Consistent in more competitive handless; including Sandow races won by Papo Kharisma and Teazatral patitive transficace, including Sandown races won by Pepo Kharisma, and Reastral Ebullient Equinemer, Very disappointing over tences last term, wind operation before lines start. One to consider on this terms efforts, second to Kales Cherm at Unitself Generous: Faxcurite stepped up to 3m when second of 20 at Gowren (soft). Never dengerous at the trip next time before well held at 2m in the Lecturoke, interesting Nocksky: Good staying form in letend before only 19th in the SunAlience Hurdle here for naw stable. Did even worse next two starts but won at Haydock (2m4f) on lates Jazz Track: Fifth to Franch Hollyhers (2m51) in 1996. Shaped that day as 83m+ would guit, but two attempts saw him unsent at the first and (on reappearance) well beaten guit, but two attempts saw him unexat at the first and (on respectance) well beaten. Good Lord Murphy: Began term as first prospect for 3m+ novice chases, but injured on return. 5th to Flying Gunner at Newbury 3 months later. Chance on last year's form Abros Hees: Won maiden at Heydock (2m6), soft last. Rebruary. Reluctant and well behind ence in SunAllance Hurde here and a hendisc pat Kempton 17 months later. The Butterwick Kidd: 2 cound and 3 head on the first of which the same in the state of the same in the same The Butterwick Kid: 2 good and 2 bad runs in last 4 starts, the former a win at Wether The bulgerware, Nat 2 glood and 2 get fulls it ask a series, it is until a win of veries-by (2m7); soft) and second in Kings Measure (seemingly outstayed) at Haydook Shannon Gale: First run for two years when winning handicap at Lacpardatown (3m, soft) in decent style by 2½ lengths, making most. Soft task on form but has potential Miseldar: Claimer rickforth and never nearer when second to Shannon Gale at Leo-erdstown, its only try at 3m. 4-length winner over 2m3f at Neast (heavy) least start Harbour falland: Inconsistent and reluctant. Birtheard first time this season. New York State in novice chases less assent, going the wrong way. His last two starts have been over hurder and much more encouraging, over inadequate hips.

ABEZ Wijfins: Lightly raced these days. Unproven beyond 2mild. Won 11-numer handlesp si Plumpton (2mild, soft) bases start by 374 lengths, but 16th out of handicap here Chief Predator: Excuses with heavy ground this term, but way out of the handicap VERDICT: Kings Measure and Three Fertilings are unexposed and of considerable potential at the trip, while Bossons Mate and FLYING GUNNER look sure to be surning on at the death; the test-resent looks an explicit bet to reach the frame or test. The Pice-trained favourts Galent Moss could be a bot on the handicap but. be unnining on at the least; the ear-names tooks an excellent bet to reach the trame et least. The Pro-trained through Gellent Moss could be a bot on the transforce but, on what we've seen so far, he has something to prove. Of the Irish, plenty of attention will be given to the JP McMarus-Cowned Sheamon Galle, but he set a steady pace when wirming his qualifier and the second, Nibelde, and Bith, Generous purpose massive pull at the weights), are at least as interesting. BEST OUTSIDER: Nibelds.

A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR

CHELTENHAM 2.35 His Song 72 72 72 103 41 Gris D'Estrarai 41 92 5-1 5-1 92 Makeunj 54 114 114 114 51 Aghamadda Gold 5-1 5-1 11-2 8-1 8-5 Flegable Uberall. 7-1 7-1 7-1 84 7-1 Wysqued Knight 18-1 9-1 8-1 8-1 8-1 Hipper Reed 11-1 10-1 11-1 8-1 10-1 Tessor De Mai 19-1 12-1 9-1 19-1 11-1 Cockeay Lad 8-1 14-1 22-1 20-1 16-1 Feethered Let 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 Advanced 33-1 33-1 33-1 25-1 49-1 Tordell Econes dat dat dat dat dat Maske-Davig 33-1 33-1 20-1 33-1 40-1 Eachway a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4 66-1 66-1 66-1 66-1 Nam Visinge 200-1 200-1 250-1 200-1 250-1 Each way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3

C Coral, H William Hill, L Lacturates, S Stanley, T Total

Copper Shell 250-1 250-1 250-1 250-1 250-1

CHELTENHAM 3.15					
t	C	H	L	8	
	1-2	142	1-2	12	1-2
Francis Holly	5-1	92	92	92	92
Theelreworld	21	14-1	10-1	121	2-1
Lady Catalan	16-1	15.1	184	16-1	15-1
Slowing Wind	25-1	251	20-1	25-1	33-1
Carry Stat	25-1	33-1	23-1	33-1	25-1
Chyllad	33-1	33-1	40-1	33-1	33-1
Homedic	28-1	441	33-1	33-1	40-1
Zatasted	40-1	33-1	40-1	40-1	33-1
Fright Laguard	40-1	40-1	50-1	50-1	50-1
Telebor	40-1	33-1	50-1	25- 1	40-1
Ballator	33-1	33-1	40-1	40-1	66-1
Upgrade	88-1	86-1	铢1	55-1	86-1
Minur Moroco	66-1	100-1	66-1	100-1	50-1
Eachway a guntar the odds, places 1, 2, 3					
C Coral, H William Hill, L Landworker, S Starring, T Total					

Gatact Moss 7-2 3-1 9-2 4-1 4-1 Draw Partitings 8-1 9-1 8-1 9-1 13-2 Roparts Marte 10-1 10-1 9-1 10-1 9-1 Sharmon Cale 9-1 10-1 10-1 18-1 10-1 Generosa 9-1 10-1 8-1 11-1 11-1 Kings Manager 10-1 12-1 13-1 13-1 13-1 Ryling Gamer 14-1 12-1 14-1 14-1 13-1 ody Matt 121 14-1 14-1 16-1 12-1 The B'wick (No. 16-1 G-1 H-1 G-1 H-1 Papo (Chadasa 16-1 16-1 16-1 20-1 14-1 161 20-1 20-1 161 20-1 Str/ Equitation 25-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 25-1 faby 81 254 81 81 251 25-1 25-1 20-1 20-1 25-1 Good Lord Miley 28-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 About Home 50-1 50-1 50-1 40-1 50-1 ARAZ 1990a 40-1 40-1 50-1 40-1 50-1 Sweet (80m 401 401 50-1 401 40-1 Hambour Island, 50-1 50-1 50-1 50-1 66-1 Jamaiore Rigid 501 501 66-1 501 501 50-1 66-1 50-1 50-1 50-1 Chief Predator 2004 2504 2504 2504 4004 Each age a courter the orbit, piaces 1, 2, 3, 4



SP()RT

PARIS IN NEED OF A MATCH P21 • LARA LIFTS WEST INDIES P23



Inter still riven by self-doubt

chances of progressing to the semi-final of the European Cup appeared to improve yesterday as self-doubt emerged within the ranks of their quarter-final opponents Internazionale, and fresh concerns arose over the fitness of the Italian side's Brazilian striker, Ronaldo.

Mircea Lucescu's side, as they seek to overcome the 2-0 deficit they picked up in the quarter-final first leg at Old Trafford a fortnight ago, were the comments made by one of their own players, Paulo Sousa.

"We`re lacking a game plan," the Portuguese midfielder said. "No one knows which movements to make and that's very serious at our level. It's not enough to send 11 players on to the pitch and say to them: 'play'. No one knows what the others are doing."

BY NICK HARRIS

side will need to show a marked improvement on their 2-2 draw in the Milan derby at the weekend to stand any chance of stifling the ambitions of Alex Ferguson's side. "If we repeat Perhaps most worrying for our derby performance, we are certain to lose against Manchester United," he said.

Paulo Sousa did not play in the derby and has been out of action for most of the season through injury and lack of form, but may be recalled to Lucescu's side against United.

Inter are banking on Ronaldo's return to take them past Ferguson's men and into their first European Cup semi-final in 18 years, but Paulo Sousa said that even the Brazilian's presence was unlikely to be no hers are doing." enough to inspire his side. "We Paulo Sousa added that his are all happy that Ronaldo is

Sellars lined up for England call

SCOTT SELLARS could be the BY ALAN NIXON surprise solution to England's problem left side of midfield. Kevin Keegan and his assistants have watched the Bolton captain recently and he could earn his first England call at the

Sellars is one of Keegan's United where he made a numided English midfielders around England's coach has sent Derek Fazackerley, who castle, to watch him in action twice in the past fortnight and his other scout, Arthur Cox, has also assessed his form.

Sellars could be a surprise name in the squad to face Poland on Saturday week as keegan is frustrated in his search for left-sided players. Steve McManaman is having problems at Liverpool, and was eft out of the squad to face Derby at Pride Park, where Keegan made his first official

No.3871 Tuesday 16 March

ACROSS

Nothing could be clear

back in some obscurity (4)

Germany you assess as 2

15 Rush to have second hot 3

one advanced eye com-

fashioned communica-

12 Husband is Lord in Gulf

14 Outside broadcast in

17 Writer's work's given

20 Ruffle beauty with first

lady on line (8)

22 Maybe remove your

from this? (6)

tion? (10)

State (3,3)

bard (8)

dish (6)

scouting trip. Darren Anderton looked uncomfortable in the role in the game against France, while other alternatives are Blackburn's Jason Wilcox and Leicester's Steve Guppy.

Keegan took Sellars to Newfavourite players from their castle from Leeds United at the seven years ago and he was per of Andy Cole's goals and he sold to Bolton, now in the Na-feats and two draws in that remains one of the best left- tionwide First Division, only be-Premiership. However, McManaman's

troubles may be ending. He will fly out with Liverpool today for a three-day training camp in France. The Liverpool manager, Gérard Houllier, said yesterday there had been no row with the Real Madrid-bound last game for the Merseysiders. be feeling much sympathy.

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

name from plan? (6)

24 In house at Maine (4)

harp playing to you (8)

1 They are minutely mea-

tion of party (4)

Spin rather than

very large and

inopportune (10)

Stove pipe, say, is no

tumble (5-3)

sured in the main (3.5)

Succeed with good sec-

With one lieutenant, on

Sheridan's character's

hard (10)

Woman has exciting life 23 To grasp meaning of matisse Ali has to work

10 Sergeant-major has to go 25 Fellow is introducing back in some obscurity (4) state of public finance (6)

11 Paper with yen for old- 26 It could transmit English

maker added, "but he alone can

not put us in the semi-final." Whether Ronaldo will actually play much of a role tomorrow remains to be seen. He suffered a headache yesterday that was severe enough to keep

him from training. "Ronaldo didn't train with his team-mates because he felt poorty," an Inter spokesman said. "He had a headache and didn't sleep well last night."

Although it is unlikely that the Brazilian's problem will keep him from the starting lineup in San Siro, any news of further problems for the Inter player will worry his side.

Ronaldo played only 45 minutes in Saturday's 2-2 derby against Milan, his first start in Serie A start since 17 January. Although the knee tendinitis problems that plagued his World Cup last summer may be on the mend, he still appears to be some way from match fit. If he starts, as expected, alongside Chile's Ivan Zamorano, it is not clear how long he will last.

"I'm not at 100 per cent and everyone knows it," Ronaldo said. "But I'm getting better and I feel good. I don't know how many minutes I'll play on Wednesday but I'll give my all. This is the match of the year."

Ronaldo added, ominously in light of Paulo Sousa's comments: "I need the best Inter possible behind me. A squad that believes in itself from start to finish."

Inter are without a win in their last eight games, including the days together at Newcastle start of the club's purple patch 2-0 first-leg defeat in Manchester two weeks ago. The six desequence would be bad enough, cause of the dazzling form of Lucescu also has to contend with David Ginola. He has been one a number of injuries. The vetof Bolton's best players as they eran striker Roberto Baggio was also a Sellars fan at New- have struggled to secure a and the winger Francesco Moplace for themselves in the riero, the two players other than Ronaldo most capable of creating scoring chances, are both less than 100 per-cent fit. It is likely one will start and the other will be on the bench.

The Brazilian midfielder Ze Elias has a sprained right ankle and the captain Giuseppe Bergomi has a stomach virus. player and that there was no Both men's ailments might pretruth in the suggestion that vent them from taking part to-McManaman has played his morrow. Ferguson is unlikely to

longer in current

Cowardly shouts of

Spokesperson giving

offensive way (16)

16 Make engine race and

poor Ellie could be

woken by it (8)

18 Are not including any

19 About to go? Not if you do this (6)

21 Imbue one, it's found rising in Holland (6)

22 Right-winger holds

uninteresting (6)

24 Laugh hard with one

repeatedly (2-2)

listener to be

thing tacky in claim (8)

cheek to woman in an

use (3-3)

pain (6)

New bookies set for quick profit

doping-related fraud by police last week will not be at Cheltenham today - the Jockey Club made sure of that yesterday when it "warned them off" with immediate effect. Everyone else in the racing world, though, will be there, be it in body or in spirit. For the next three days, nothing else mat-

For many, the Festival has been an annual place of pil-grimage for decades, but this year there will be fresh faces at Cheltenham, too. It is just a few months since new rules in the betting ring allowed the bookmakers, many of whom were almost as old as the racecourse itself, to sell off the pitches from which they trade to the highest bidder. Young (or at any rate younger) bookies happily paid up to £100,000 at auction for the chance to stand in Cheltenham's main betting area, where, as one old hand has put it, "the only limit to the amount of money you can take is how quickly you can shove it into the satchel."

Six figures is a lot of money to pay for a small patch of concrete, but the new blood in the betting ring will hope to get it a demanding test for the horsall back, and more, over the next three days. Indeed, one of their number already has. On his first day as a Cheitenham bookie, at the course's last so than Tony McCoy, the chammeeting, Freddie Williams took pion rider over jumps but a man up residence in the prime bet- who has often been too free with

BY GREG WOOD

ting pitch for which he had tust paid £90,000. By the end of the afternoon, he had taken three bets, worth a total of £140,000 from the legendary Irish punter, J P McManus. All were losers, and Williams was immediately £50,000 ahead on the deal

McManus will be back again today, to see runners in his colours in four of the six races, and perhaps to take back some of the cash he left in the ring last time. Where McManus is concerned, such money is usually lent, not lost. In particular, he will hope to see Istabraq win the Champion Hurdle for the second year running. If he does not, Freddie Williams and his colleagues will need trailers to take home all the booty.

Racegoers who arrived in the West Country a day early yesterday did so in summer clothes, and continuing mild weather can only add to the though, is still riding good to soft, after one of the wettest winters for years, and it will be es. Falls are inevitable; fatalities, hopefully, less so.

Jockeys, too, will be the cen- it all again next year. tre of attention, and none more

ing authorities. Only yesterday, McCoy was banned for two days for misusing his "persuader", and if he offends again this week, the penalty could be

much more severe. So popular has Cheltenham become in recent years that a crowd limit has now been imposed. It will not feel like it, though, in the cheaper enclosures, where getting a drink in less than 20 minutes is the longest shot of the whole afternoon. A winning favourite or two, though, particularly if it hails from Ireland, will make even the heaving ovens of the grandstand bars seem like the most hospitable places on

Last year, no fewer than seven favourites came home in front, and for the first time in years, many bookies went home with empty pockets. Their wounds have been festering for 12 long months, however, and the law of averages insists that this year it will be the bookmakers' turn. Fortunes will Festival experience. The track, be won and lost during three wild days in the natural crucible below Cleeve Hill, and as ever the last thought of most racegoers as they leave on Thursday night will be how best to go about getting the money to do

Cheltenham preview pages 24-25 Terence Blacker, Review

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Lewis gains respect in ÛS

BY DAVID FIELD in New York

LENNOX LEWIS may have to wait for a re-match before proving he is the true heavyweight champion, but his performance against Evander Holvfield appears finally to have won the World Boxing Council champion the respect he craves on the other side of the Atlantic.

Lewis' controversial draw at Madison Square Garden has outraged much of the boxing fraternity in America. "In a strange way he's become a hero," said his trainer, Emmanuel Steward.

The New York Post summed up the furore with the headline "It Stinks", while the New York State governor, George Patali, wants a state commission to investigate the fight. The city's mayor, Rudy Giuliani, said: "Tam embarrassed as a New Yorker," he said, "I know boxing as well as I know about being a mayor. There's no way Holyfield won that fight. There were a lot of people here from England -6,000, 7,000 - and they will be going home ... thinking we are a bunch of cheats."

Lewis plans to relax in snowy New York for a couple of days, after the decision of the three boxing bodies involved to order a re-match. It may not be as simple as that. Holyfield, holder of the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles, said he would not want to fight before September. "In six months if he wants to get it on we'll get it on," Holyfield said.

Politics could still intervene. Negotiations will be even more contentious between pay-perview boxing rivals HBO, which backs Holyfield through promoter Don King, and Showtime, the network with which Lewis has a long-term deal. Lewis, who earned half of Holyfield's £12.5m purse, is sure to want a better deal for a re-match. He would also like it be held in Britain. 📕 Judge Eugenia Williams scored the fifth round 16-9 in

favour of Holyfield and not as reported vesterday. David Ashdown | Verdict controversy, page 5

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TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Albert Juttus and his wife lived in this house for 46 years. They used a bucket as a layatory and drank water from the ditch outside. But now they're leaving the 17th century behind, and Albert's worried they'll be spoiled

Thejoyofplumbing

'm driving along a road in Leices-tershire, in the fidy heart of the English countryside, where slick green fields roll out on either side to the horizon. I drive through the village of Shenton, a quiet place without so much as a pub, past prosperous-looking farms and neat brick houses. And then I draw up outside a bungalow. found the bungalow is a sea of mud. Between the road and the bungalow is a ditch, choked with weeds, with a little muddy stream trickling along it. I push open the door of the bungalow to find Albert Juttus, a gentle-looking 73-year-old, sitting in his front room before a tiny heater running off a cylinder of Calor gas. He's lived in this house for 46 years, and in all that time his only source of water has been that muddy ditch.

"I'm on the move," says Albert Juttus in his

Lewis

gains

BY DWID FIELD

10011

juttural; East European accent, once I am setiled in his front room. In this room sits all the furniture that the house holds - one bed, one table, one wardrobe and two hard chairs. "I'm on the move from the 17th century. They're putting me right in the 21st century." He has lived his life in total obscurity until last week, when the local council suddenly awarded him its biggest-ever grant – of over £40,000 – for transforming his tiny property. It will now be connected to running water, get a new roof, windows and doors, and a lavatory, a sink and a shower. Since the announcement of that grant, the council has he mather embarrassed by the interest that AlberaJuttus's belated journey into the 20th century has gained: front-page coverage in the local newspaper and visits to Mr Juttus's humble dwelling by Sky television. "I'm the superstar,"

he says, looking at me quizzically. Talking with Albert Juttus is an odd experience. Sometimes I feel adraid that I'm patronising him, he seems so aware and so alive. But sometimes I feel that he is a child who isn't quite sure what's going on. The builders have already moved in, so fresh plaster coats the walls and a brand-new toilet, as yet unplumbed, lies on its side in a back room. "They are making a palace out of it," he says wonderingly as he shows me round. "People will be stopping their cars to have a look." That's Albert Juttus in his childish mood; he really seems to believe that the possession of a flush toilet means palatial glamour.

But Albert Juttus's life isn't just an odd curiosity; it says something about communities and how they work - or don't work - in Britain today. He has lived here with his wife for over 40 years - she has just moved temporarily into a nursing home – and for the last few years, as they got increasingly frail and vulnerable, they were heavily reliant on the good feeling of one neighbour, who declines to be named. Her tales of their neglected life strike a chill into your heart. "Every time I came back from seeing them my son would say, 'you've been down at Albert's'. The stink was so bad in their house it would get in my clothes - I had to take all my clothes off and throw them

into the washing machine if I just visited them." For two people in their seventies - and Albert's wife Grace is mentally disturbed as well as physically disabled - coping without running water and electricity had become too much many years ago. Tim Howes, director of Community Services at Hinckley Borough Council, says: "We acted as soon as we knew about the situation. We wish we had known about it sooner, but they'd obviously been slipping through the net for a long

"cutting down trees", as he succinctly put it, and the smooth wooden floors of the bungalow then moved on to other agricultural or manual work, on farms, in mills, in factories. He has never had any contact with his family in Estonia. "I guess my parents are dead now," he says. "I

didn't write to them. I didn't know what to say." But gradually Juttus made a life, of sorts, for himself. He met his wife while working on a farm in nearby Sutton Cheney. "She wanted us to be together. I was not so keen at first. But I thought, I got to start having a life some time." When the builders moved into the bungalow, the Juttuses' neighbour helped him clear things out, and almost everything had to be burnt, it was all so rotten and stinking. But a few things were salvaged, including a little photograph of the Juttuses' wedding day, a hand-tinted print in which the couple's matching dove-grey suits and the bride's burst of pink roses sing out with the vivid colour of old memories. They didn't go on hon-eymoon. "I've never been on holiday with Grace," he says. "We couldn't afford all that." After working on the land for so many years, Juttus then found work in the nearby Dunlop fac-

BY NATASHA WALTER

and his wife the change has come almost too late. But it would be wrong to see Albert Juttus as

just someone to be pitied. In another way, he's a real survivor. He came to Britain in 1946, from Estonia. He grew up in a farming family. "We the Germans occupied Estonia. "They said I had to work for the German army. I hated the Nazis." Then at the end of the war the Russians moved in. "I hated the Communists as much as the Nazis. They are all terrorists." Juttus moved away from the advancing Russians, into a displaced persons' camp in Germany. "I didn't want to stay there. I said, I'm not helping build this place up. They started the war. I said, I'm going which country I like. So I said I wanted to immigrate to England." Why England, Albert? "I thought here I'd have some peace and quiet." So Juttus came to Britain without knowing a

time." At last, Albert Juitus is to get some of the tory. He had friends there. "Oh yes, there were amenities we take for granted, but for both him friends. There was nattering and bullying." What did you think, Albert, when you knew that they all had running water and electricity and so on and you didn't? "I thought... they must have big bills. The water board, the electricity board. I didn't think I could deal with those big bills." worked hard." he says. "Working on the land is hard didn't they tell you to get your life togethere, especially in winter." During the war er? Juttus looks a little shocked. "They wouldn't speak out of turn," he says quietly. So this man living on a labourer's wage with a wife who didn't work and no knowledge of the benefits system clearly believed he was just locked out of the lifestyle that everyone around him took for granted. "I didn't think about it," he says. "I was independent. I didn't ask for anything. I lived my own way, the cheapest way you can."

He worked in the factory during the week, and at weekends he grew his vegetables on his little plot of land, and heated muddy water on a paraffin stove, pan by pan, to wash clothes or fill a cast-iron bath to wash himself. He taught himself out of books to do some impressive DIY word of English and worked for the government

were made by him. At night the couple lit their oil lamp and listened to a battery-powered radio. Without any sewage facilities, they used a bucket and burnt their waste on fires.

So how did change ever come to this little house lost in time? Albert Juttus, in his bizarrely modest but oddly practical way, decided that it was indeed pretty hard getting water out of the ditch, but that it would be easier if he had a proper well. So two and a half years ago he asked a health worker whether they could get a well made in the garden, who referred the case to a charity called Care and Repair. They visited the house, were shocked beyond belief, and began to put pressure on the council to rectify the situation. "It's amazing that they went undiscovered for so long," says Mo Murray, manager of Care and Repair. Doesn't Mr Juttus wish he'd managed to change it all much earlier? "It's too late to wish now," he says, stubbing out a cigarette. "Times never return." And clearly something in him even feels ambivalent about the new life that looms ahead. "It's easy, isn't it, you just switch a button or turn a tap, it all just happens... Well, I'll get spoilt. They'll be coming for me with cotton wool and mothballs next."

It would have been a lot easier for the council if he had agreed to move into a spanking new home on a smart estate, but he wouldn't do that. At the back of his house the view sweeps on and on over green fields and to the soft surge of low hills, fringed with trees. "That's a good thing about the country," he says, looking out over the familiar prospect. "You see long distances. I can sit out before sunset, when the birds start singing. I wouldn't like to move. What for?"

Later Albert Juttus and I go to the Asda in Nuneaton so that he can buy some supplies. Through the brilliant aisles he shambles slowly, picking out pork chops and tins of the cheapest cat food. We go with his neighbour who tells him that he has just won £10 on the Lottery ticket she bought him. "That's very good," he says, smiling. He likes to play the Lottery. What would you do if you won, Albert? "Oh, I don't know," he says, nonplussed. "Tve never thought about it. I don't want a million pounds." I laugh, but a few moments later I feel closer to tears as he takes the sandwich I have picked up for myself out of my hands and tries to insist on paying for it.



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Listings

Mother and child

Sir: I was overjoyed to read Natasha Walter's column (15 March). A successful feminist, she has the imagination and empathy to understand that not all mothers wish to work outside the home while their children are small.

As a mother who works sporadically, to fit in with my children's needs, I have felt for some time that this Government regards me as a skiver. What really hurts is the assumption that I am of no worth to society unless I am picking up a pay packet.

Being a penurious writer doesn't entitle me to any tax breaks, but thank God for a hard-working partner, and Oxfam's second-hand children's clothes. But women like me who can afford (just) to do what we feel is right for our children should support those unfortunate mothers who are dependent on state benefit. It's hard to avoid thinking that they are being coerced into work, and their children forced into childcare of sometimes dubious quality. Children have a deep and often passionate bond with their mothers, and it is a highly individual thing as to when and how that bond lessens. I foresee some tragedies if the pace is forced.

Have any of New Labour's top women brought up their own children, without the aid of a nanny? Maybe if they had, they would appreciate how important it is to allow mothers a genuinely free choice as to when to return to work. And maybe it would also quash the convenient fiction that mothering is a hobby to be indulged in after work hours, rather than a proper job. CAROLINE MILLAR Liverpool

Price of food

Sir. This was the Common Agricultural Policy reform that never was ("Blair condemns 'historic' CAP reform as farmers celebrate", 12 March).

Not only did the farmers who get an extra £1bn in taxpayers' money get away with no limits or condition attached to their subsidies, but the price cuts were small and compensation payments large. And, as usual, rural communities and the environment were almost forgotten. No change there then.

Meanwhile the Minister for Agriculture tries to give it a positive spin by saying we will all benefit, as we'll save £70 on our annual food bill. In reality, only about 15 per cent of the price we pay in shops goes to the farmers so supermarkets are highly unlikely to pass on any small savings there to the shoppers. We need a CAP but not this CAP which remains the wrong policy at the wrong time supporting the wrong things. VICKI HIRD

Co-ordinator Sustainable Agriculture, Food and London N1

Sir: Current thinking on food seems to be based on the premise that food must cost less and less. This has led to: intensive farming, with all its environmental destruction and rural decopulation: ever more supermarkets, destroying village centres and community; the Common Agricultural Policy, with all its distortions of economic reality. And this, when spending on food is already down to only 11 per cent of incomes in Europe. Even in the current CAP reforms, yet further reduction in food costs is cited as an aim.

Yet food, clothing and shelter are the cardinal requirements for life. Only when these are satisfied can any surplus be applied to education. health, cultural life etc. Ask any Third World country. Europeans should regard it as normal to spend say 20-25 per cent of income on food. That could meet the real costs of its NICHOLAS G WRIGLEY

Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire

Transplant fears

Sir: I am interested to find from your correspondence that not everybody knows that, for the more elaborate transplant

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Cuba No 2: Schoolchildren chatting and hanging out on the streets of Havana

operations, it is necessary that the heart of the donor be beating and that ventilation and the peripheral circulation be maintained. Certainly the transplant card widely available gives little indication of this fact and would not qualify, as Roger Blassberg (2 March) points out, as providing informed consent in the sense applied to other surgical

operations. "Beating-heart" donors and the idea of brain death were widely discussed in the Seventies and early Eighties and arose not, as is often said, because of the need of neurosurgeons, of whom I was one, to know when to stop ventilation if no further benefit to the patient could result, but rather from the desires and needs of

A prognosis (death imminent) was transformed into a state (being dead) and a redefinition of death for pragmatic reasons established: a momentous step. While I do not dispute the accuracy with which the present criteria predict that donors selected in this way will die when ventilation is discontinued. I have been unwilling to accept the abandonment of such an ancient concept as to what constitutes death because I thought that, since it was always certain that supplies of suitable donors would be inadequate, attempts would be made to widen further the criteria of "death". This has, in fact, happened in the case of anencephalic infants and in the suggestion that vegetative

It is probable that there is more widespread dislike amongst nurses and doctors for using beating-heart donors than is recognised and that this contributes to the loss of suitable organs complained of by transplant surgeons. No doubt these considerations are behind a remarkable suggestion by a medical ethicist recently that the organs of patients in this state should become the property of the

patients with head injuries be

government, to distribute in a regulated market, and the British Medical Association's call for a debate on the use of organs without consent. T T KING FRCS Brentwood, Essex

Falklands freedom

Sir: The assertion by Vice-President Carlos Ruckauf of Argentina that the Falkland Islanders have "no right to selfdetermination" is incorrect (report, 11 March), The United Nations Covenant on Political Rights asserts the right of all people to self-determination. Of our own free will, we have determined to remain British and, to its credit, the UK government is we are eternally grateful.

We believe that, given time, peaceful and neighbourly coexistence is achievable in the South Atlantic, based on trust and mutual respect. From our side this excludes the use of coercion or threat and includes recognition of

Sir: Michael Knight (letter, 15

March) claims that fluctuations

of the euro against the pound or

dollar prove that it is unstable.

between the 11 members of the

Eurozone, who have abandoned

fluctuating national currencies

for a single one. Britain will

only when it joins the euro.

ERNEST WISTRICH

London NW3

benefit from the same stability

Sir: In 14 years, Red Nose Day

Britain! In another five years we

will have managed to raise as

much money as Mozambique is

service every year. Such relief

truly is comic. This scratch-the-

surface charity ignores our

responsibility for the political

expected to pay the West in debt

has managed to raise over

£150m. Congratulations,

That is nonsense. Currency

stability has been achieved

the historic, cultural and linguistic origins which form the basis of our right to self-determination. We welcome the efforts of Prince Charles to create the atmosphere within which we can all live in peace under the government of our own choosing. This, after all, is the very essence of the democracy which Mr Ruckauf's government espouses

JAN CHEEK RICHARD COCKWELL SHARON HALFORD Members of the Executive Coucil Folkland Islands Government Stanley Falkland Islands

Call BMW bluff

Sir: One of the reasons Margaret Labour kept pouring money into the British Leyland factory at Longbridge during the 1970s.

At least it was nationalised then, so there was some justification; but now it is privately owned. If BMW is serious, and decides to close the plant in the absence of a

IN BRIEF

structures which are the root

cause of world poverty.

Sir: As the man most

instrumental in raising the

public profile of Third World

aid and achieving record funds

through Live Aid, Bob Geldof

has amply demonstrated the

heroic virtue which Paul

qualification for sainthood

Sir: I am cynical about the

increasing trend for the media

crime or their relatives after a

to approach the victims of a

("Arise, Sir Bob", 12 March).

Vallely defines as a

PAUL NEWMAN

Gerrards Cross,

Buckinghamshire

London SW18

PETER B PATTISSON

it in a privatisation or management buy-in/buy-out. That would give BMW competition instead of subsidy, and would genuinely help to protect British jobs, rather than German shareholders' interests. BMW knew what they were

government subsidy, only then

should New Labour take action.

They could buy the (closed) plant:

cheaply, or nationalise it, then sell

buying at the time; nothing has changed. Mr Blair should call their R D PHILLIPS

Cardiff

Brave protest

Sir: Very bravely, The Independent castigates Channel 4 for its lack of "What's so Special about David", a "challenging and important" film in our disability series Access All Areas, broadcast at 12.05am on 8 March (Media, 9 March).

In a misguided attempt to show that Channel 4 is eschewing the "difficult" in favour of the "trivial",

trial and ask them if they are happy with the sentence. Justice is there to protect society, not for revenge. If you ask the victims' views maybe you should also ask the criminal. One will say the sentence is too light, the other too severe; neither is relevant. DAVID DAY Cold Ash, Berkshire

Sir: Charles Arthur and Andrew Gumbel refer to the death of Mr Akio Morita ("Do not underestimate the power of Sony", 11 March). Mr Morita has not died and, although not involved in the active running of the company, retains the title of Founder and Honorary Chairman. w h vestey

General Manager, Public Affairs Sony United Kingdom Ltd Weybridge, Surrey

you compare this to the scheduling of the "light-hearted" "The Half Monty", another Access All Areas film that aired in peak time at 8.30pm on 4 March. You ignore the fact that Access All Areas is a series of more than two films. We broadcast a film about a paralysed mother, "Penny's Baby", at 7.35pm on 5 March and "The Down's Syndrome" at 7.30pm the following

Channel 4 continues to move socalled minority issues into its mainstream programme line-up. Perhaps, in return, The Independent will be brave enough to admit that this is a positive development rather than something to be snide about. MICHAEL JACKSON Chief Executive

Bombing history

London SW1

Sir: We must stop bombing Iraq. The UK government must pull out our forces and urge the US to do the same. Aside from overwhelming humanitarian arguments, the heritage of Western civilisation lies under the sands of Iraq, and it has been plundered continuously since the Gulf war.

The Iraqis used to be proud guardians of their ancient cities, the most famous of which is Babylon, but UN sanctions have had their price. Unfortunately since 1991 looting of entirely undocumented sites, amongst the most important ancient settlements found, is already leading to the deletion of history, perhaps rendering us incapable of answering crucial questions about

the past. Iraq is the land where Christianity, Judaism and Islam have their common roots and where Abraham lived in the city of Ur around the 3rd millennium BC. We owe it to future generations to find and pass on that history - not bomb it from the record. STEFAN WICKHAM London W1

Spurs' shame

Sir: I write to add a voice to your correspondent's concern for Stan Collymore, in the context of the appalling climate of intolerance and hostility in this country towards mental illness, including clinical depression (letter, 13 March).

As a football fan, as well as a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist. I was shocked to be at Saturday's game between Tottenham Hotspur and Aston Villa and to hear my fellow Spurs supporters jeering and taunting Collymore with chants of "You're mad and you know you are" and "You're gonna be locked up."

It is too easy to shrug this off as rumbustious or light-hearted. It is in fact the ugly, cruel behaviour of a mob. Spurs fans are rightly sensitive to any hint of anti-Semitic abuse from opposing supporters, but apparently unaware of behaving in an equally hateful manner.

Whatever the details of Collymore's situation, he is suffering from a serious psychological condition, and is clearly playing under considerable strain. He deserves our respect and compassion, not our mockery. Underlying this mockery is, of

course, fear in all of us of mental illness and emotional vulnerability as well as envy of the talent which footballers possess and the money they earn. While this may help to understand such mob behaviout, it does not justify it. NOEL HESS Department of Psychotherapy

University College Hospital London WC1

Avant garde

Sir. While I read with great interest the piece by Philip Hensher "If this is great art, how can it be reduced to a joke?" (11 March) I cannot help feeling he has got matters back to

Writing about the work of the conceptual artist Gillian Wearing, and the tendency for her ideas to be heavily borrowed by the advertising industry; he seemed to feel that the solution is for her art to become more complex, and thus: less easily borrowed.

Having your ideas borrowed is the whole point. The artist's function within society is surely to act as an agent for cultural reconnaissance, to look at avenues

we might wish to wander down. The only dilemma comes when the plagiarism affects your ability to command a market price. That difficulty is caused by treating art as commodity. But it isn't the fault

of the art itself. The commercial rot in the art world has gone too far for us to stop it (it is, after all, nearly as old as art itself), and the only correction left is by way of public money being presumably why we have national

collections. The logical conclusion to this economic quadrille is to tax the advertising industry itself; a tariff could be set up for how often they raided the ideas from our cultural storehouse.

PHILIP FREEMAN Llandinam, Powys

This one won't fly

Sir: Sinister news of scientists in the US having created four-legged chickens (12 March). By taking a gene found in legs and transferring it to the wings of chicken embryos, they have caused the beginnings of clawed feet to appear. What a handy creation for the poultry farmer, with four legs per bird and no bony wings.

To those who argue the line that genetically modifying organisms are no more than an extension of the selective breeding careful farmers have used for centuries, I say: show me a four-legged chicken thus bred. Perhaps these same people will tell us that four-legged chickens will help to feed the world's starving. PETER F KENYON Summer Hill New South Wales, Australia

My ideal version is showing at the Kington Coronet

I ONCE found myself sitting at a big lunch next to Stephen Fry and asked him, as one does, what he was doing. I mean really doing, and he said what he was really, really doing - apart from all this acting and writing and earning a living lark - was working on a film script of John Kennedy Toole's novel, A Confederacy of Dunces.

This was what he was really doing in the sense that he had started it and he couldn't see the end in sight. I met him again about a year later and asked him if he was still working on the film script, and he said wearily, Of course, yes, still working away at it, which is normally what writers say when they aren't working away at it, just thinking about it, or actually doing some work but seeming to progress backwards...

I'm glad he hasn't finished that script yet, because I don't particularly want to see a film made of A Confederacy of Dunces, even from a Stephen Fry script. This rich, rambling comic novel is set in New Orleans, which is where I bought my first copy of the book no, I tell a lie, I didn't actually buy it there, because a bookseller in New Orleans I was talking to was so shocked to hear that I had never read A Confederacy of Dunces that he gave me a copy free, along with all the other books I was paying for, and I am very glad that he did, because it turned out to be one of those books which leave such an impression on you that you almost make your own filmed version of it in your mind as you go along, and the last thing you ever want to see is someone else's film version.

We must all have books like this, books we like so much that we don't want other people to make films of them. (In my wife's case, she has just added the Baroness Orczy Scarlet Pimpernel books to her list. She is still trembling with rage over the television travesties recently broadcast, which seemed to her to miss the entire point.)

Actually, I've got books I like so much I don't want other people to read them. I've met other people who have read A Confederacy of Dunces. Stephen Fry. for one. But I have never met anyone who has read Un Rude Hiver by Raymond Queneau, or L'Affaire Blaireau by Alphonse Allais, or Voyages en Espagne by Théophile Gautier, which are three of my favourite books, and which I guess I might like less if they were popular. Or from prying eyes, at least on this



MILES **KINGTON**

We must all have books we like so much that we don't want other people to make films of them

available in English. But I am safe in the knowledge that they are safe

side of the Channel, because they fused to find plays by Racine going

When I was doing modern languages, all the weary way from early school to university, there were certain authors you could not avoid, around whom there were no ring roads. You always had to go via Racine, Corneille, Goethe, Schiller, Molière, Thomas Mann, Flaubert... It was only when you got off the beaten syllabus that you could start taking pleasure in the scenery. In the off-syllabus writers, or the off-syllabus works of on-

I came to think after a while that all the big chaps on the motorway exit roads, the Racines and Schillers, were only there out of duty and that all the good stuff worth reading was off the beaten track, so I occasionally become con-

svilabus writers.

on in the West End. I assume that everyone knows you don't put Racine on in the theatre - you only study him for exams. Indeed, one result of my education was that I came to think that some authors in English were not for reading, only for studying. Chaucer, of course, and Milton, and Beowulf. Dryden and Ben Jonson. All for work, never for pleasure. Coming closer to today. I'd assume that nobody ever reads Thackeray and George Meredith, save for study, and probably Henry James and Proust...

George Bernard Shaw attempted to decree in his will that none of his plays should ever be set for exams, for fear it would make the young hate him. But some books actually seem written only for exam purposes. I can remember

one book from my French A level days which is a perfect example. It. was called Letters from My Windmill, by Aiphonse Daudet. A lightweight book, a lightweight author. Pleasant, short, ideal for yielding essay subjects. Everyone at school had a copy. Everyone hated it, even though it was actually quite a nice book, and I have never met anyone since I left school who has so much as mentioned the book.

So you can imagine the shock of finding that on Radio 4 this week, Letters from My Windmill - a book which has never previously been seen outside any classroom anywhere - is being read out loud in episodes at 9.45 am each day. By Stephen Fry, as it happens.

Oh well, at least it stops him turning A Confederacy Of Dunces

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Avant garde

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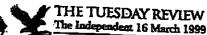
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Only radical reform will cure the EU of its corruption

ONE OF the proudest boasts of the founding fathers of the project of European integration more than 40 years ago was that the Commissioners of the European Community would be required to take an oath. By this, their primary allegiance was pledged to Europe rather than the "home" nations and governments that had sent them to Brussels. The latest report into corruption in the European Union suggests that, in too many cases, European Commissioners' first allegiances these days are to themselves, their cronies, and even their dentists.

The humiliation of the Commission of the European Union at the hands of the "wise men" who reported on the allegations of fraud, and particularly the case of Edith Cresson, tells us all we needed, wanted, and, indeed, feared to learn about the state of "Europe" today. It is corrupt. Indeed, to adapt a fashionable phrase, it is "institutionally corrupt". That is to say that the faults lie not so much in the personalities involved but in the very nature of the institutions themselves. They are "dysfunctional".

It would, of course, be preferable to see the Commission filled with men and women who do not fit quite into the superannuated cabinet minister mould. There is too much of the Elysian Fields about nominations to these important posts. But even the most idealistic of commissioners might be tempted to become arrogant without accountability.

The time has come for Europe's friends to acknowledge that radical reform to the EU's institutions is more than desirable: it is the only way in which the whole European ideal can be realised. Europe faces major challenges. We cannot expect the euro to be strong, or for the EU to take on the United States in a trade war, or to reform the Common Agricultural Policy, or embrace countries to the east, with EU institutions which are not up to these tasks.

Europe needs a constitution badly. For a political entity comprising 350 million people, with a single currency and common foreign and defence policies, to lack viable democratically accountable structures is a dangerous flaw. What we have is a series of sometimes contradictory Treaties, case law in the European Court and a corpus of decisions and conventions made by the Commission and Council of Ministers. Hardly a "citizens' Europe". Many members of the EU, such as Denmark, have ancient democratic traditions: others, such as Germany and Spain, have modern constitutions that are models of devolution. There is the unique accountability which the Westminster system imposes on the executive. It cannot be beyond the wit of Europe to take the best of these traditions and frame a simple set of political rules to manage its affairs. If Europe fails to reform itself, then it will not command, and will not deserve to command, the allegiance of its citizens.



Even child murderers deserve a fair trial

THE EUROPEAN Commission of Human Rights' decision to allow the appeal of the two youngsters convicted for the murder of Jamie Bulger brings back images we would all rather forget. The closed-circuit camera footage of the toddler being led away by his assailants. Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, will live in the mind just as long as the Moors murders, images of inhuman and unspeakable acts. Jamie's parents have every right to seek retribution for those acts, stricken with a grief we can only guess at.

But we must attempt to comprehend such crimes, if condemnation is not to replace reason. As the Commission put it yesterday, trials must not appear simply "an exercise in the vindication of public outrage". This was exactly

Minister recommending we "condemn a little more, and understand a little less". Unfortunately, that wish to punish has eclipsed two principles which should underpin the law: judicial independence, and fairness to the accused.

The Home Secretary of the time, Michael Howard, should not have interfered in setting a new minimum limit to the sentence, over and above that decided through proper judicial channels. This populist decision has endangered the conviction itself, first quashed in the domestic courts and now one of the subjects of the European appeal. Ministers should not interfere in this way again. The adult court in which the two boys were tried did try to accommodate the defendants' age: social workers were allowed into the courtroom, and shorter sessions were introduced. But as the Commission concludes, children should not have been tried there in the first place.

For all New Labour's reforms of the law on youth crime, often more crude and authoritarian than wellwhat many yearned for at the time, John Major as Prime judged and precise, it remains the case that, for murder, sult in the rematch, has finally won over the British public.

juveniles face an adult criminal court. Thus all the defects of the Bulger trial - the high-octane media coverage of a trial held in public, the absence of evidence from the defendants, the sight of two 11-year-olds propped up on high chairs in the dock - could be repeated. This must end. Other countries operate a perfectly efficient juvenile justice system up to the age of 18, and it is time that we took this civilising step towards the European norm.

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The winner

IN A curious way, Lennox Lewis emerged a winner at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night. A clear-cut victory would have greatly pleased his supporters, of course. But the seemingly unjust denial of the world heavyweight crown - and on foreign soil at that - now there's a cause that the British really will rally around in their familiar Dunkirk spirit for lost causes. Lennox Lewis, whatever the re-

I'm sorry, but your children are not your own private property

AS AN Englishman I spend quite a lot does the prospect of being economiof my time lamenting the impact of cally disadvantaged. change on my environment. People aren't as courteous as once they were, there are too many cars, and young women rest their boots on train seats. Such lamentation is an essential part of our culture. An over- experienced any form of advice and whelmingly urban and exceptionally mobile nation, we nevertheless extol bility, quiet, order and community. Scarcely a weekend passes without some journalist breathlessly informit should be remembered that only the minent exchange of the North London lain on the couch in the first place. terrace for the fields and cots of East Anglia. Where the larks they sing

I imagine that it was to this desire to recapture a lost time that William Hague was appealing last night, when independence has run alongside a he launched his campaign against the heightened expectation from women present, liberal divorce laws. Those in the first flush of marriage are often incredulous about what happens later, that seems increasingly to underpin but what evidence, one wonders, does he have for assuming that the high rate of marital breakdown is caused Should one partner not provide the by a lax divorce regime - rather than other partner with what he or she the other way about?

melodious, and raspberries will be one

Not much, I would think. Those who initiate divorce proceedings are usually women, and it is mostly women tho will suffer financially from the ending of a marriage. Research undertaken for the Lord Chancellor's Demight help in making divorce less acdecision to end a relationship. And nor Take this little, emblematic sentence

What is even more depressing particularly for the Home Secretary, is the early evidence that pre-marital counselling is also ineffective in cutting the divorce rate. Few people had -as the authors rather mordantly put it - "there is no evidence of unsatisthe virtues of idealised village life: sta- fied demand". Intensive therapy might have assisted between 11 and ing her Sunday readers about her im- most committed were likely to have

> You can argue the toss as to whether long-term economic or cultural factors have had the greatest effect upon divorce levels; for most of us the two are too closely entwined to be disentangled. Women's economic of what they should gain from marriage. In the late Nineties the ethos marriage is a strange melange of romanticism and contractualism. needs, then there is not only a moral entitlement to end the relationship. there is actually a social expectation

that it should be ended. And frankly, it wouldn't matter a toss should all marriages fetch up in divorce, if children weren't involved. partment, and published last month. But here, it seems to me, old Hague indicates that alterations to the law is right about the liberal consensus. We have been careless about how dirimonious but has little impact on the vorce and separation affect children.



DAVID AARONOVITCH

I've met people who are more scrupulous about their clothes, and far more faithful to their pets

from a right-on woman writing in a trendy magazine. Here Irma Reilly (in LM magazine) explains divorce approvingly, in an article that does not mention children once: "People change - grow apart, get bored with each other meet other people they like more. And so they leave one rela-tionship to start another." Put like this, it's a wonder that any couple manages to make it all the way through to the adulthood of their kids. I have met people who are more scrupulous about their clothes, and far more faithful to

It isn't surprising then, that many especially those who have been divorced - have deluded themselves into believing that divorce doesn't really harm children. Children are "resilient", and, in any case, conveniently better off when loveless and conflictimpact upon kids of parental breakup is often devastating, and usually damaccommodate one another, even to the extent of living with occasional adulteries or periods of abstinence.

But the child's point of view is not

one we particularly want to hear. Perhaps this is because we are all children now, no matter how old we are. As the NSPCC "Out of Sight" campaign launched today reveals, the highest rates of homicide in this country are suffered by the under fours. Forty per cent of all killings are of infants under the age of one. Of their killers half are male "carers", a third are mothers and 14 per cent are other carers acting in loco purentis (we should bear in mind here the vastly greater amount of time that mothers spend with small children). We defer to them, spoil them and - if that doesn't keep the little sods quiet - we kill them. And this misery, almost all of it, goes on in the privacy of the

Parents, of course, know what's best for their children. This is the era of the privatisation of childhood. It is also an age in which some would-be parents really do see their children as fashion accessories. Still others view them as bolsters to their failing egos, as comfort zones for dead-ended, dumpy teenage girls to surround themselves with. In this respect it is

ents are brought to an end. But over confronted each day by failing parents the past half decade the evidence has who will brook no correction or advice. steadily piled up, indicating that the The political right believes that the state has minimal business interfering in child-rearing (the "nanny-state" aging. Looked at from the child's is, after all, a term of abuse), the left point of view it is well worth mummies argues that - when it comes to single and daddies going that extra mile to mothers - they should be given the money, but that no one should tell them what to do. For all the talk of overweening, Stalinist social workers, the fact is that the presumption made by social services is usually to leave

a child with its natural mother. This week has also seen further discussion of the Bulger case, with the successful appeal by the solicitor of the two young killers to the European Court. The anticipated row is now building up. But the Bulger case was not singular just because two children killed another. That had happened before. It was dreadful because all those adults could and should have stopped Jamie's progression to his execution, and they failed to. One child being dragged, screaming by two others was, essentially, a private business.

This is my lament then, my bit of nostalgia. I want us to start looking out for each other's children. I want us to risk the charge of nosiness and interference that might result from our intervention.

I want children to be seen as a social concern, and not as the private property of their parents. I want babushkas to stop us in the street and tell us when we haven't wrapped the baby up warmly enough. Other people's sex lives are none of our busi-

ending was a disgrace. A sham Whitaker-Julio Cesar Chavez,

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The boys do not seem prepared to accept that they should be punished for what they did." Sean Sexton. solicitor to James Bulger's mother

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Logic is like the sword - those who appeal to it shall perish by it." Samuel Butler, English writer

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victory he plainly had earned, he would be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the control of his promoters. In-

HAD LEWIS been awarded the may not find the prospect so Contra Costa Times

world and the title would be in FOR THE second consecutive fight, Evander Holyfield looked stead. King remains somewhat a lot like the ageing fighter he shakily in the driver's seat. He is as Lennox Lewis pretty still has two-thirds of the title much had his way with him for at his disposal and he still has 12 rounds before some kinda somewhat-tarnished Holy-ness from the ringside judges field. He also has a contract that rescued him with a draw. Now, ostensibly gives him the right it is heavyweight boxing itself to promote a rematch. But that might need some rescuing **MONITOR**

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD US press comment on the result of the Lewis-Holyfield title fight

champion gave way to a dawn where the titles still are muddled and mediocrity threatens when he reviews its terms, he after a night that was sup- Tompo Tribune

posed to crown an undisputed IT WAS a draw. And a disgrace. Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield gave us a show last night. They gave the Garden a worthy fight, full of skill and heart and drama. Then the

and a disgrace. This was sup- this was the most blatant, posed to be action that recalled the best of the sport of boxing in New York not the worst of it, not some decision out of the days when it barely seemed to matter how the fight had gone. New York Daily News

OF THE three worst draws I've Tommy Hearns-Sugar Ray Leonard II and Pernell

car as he later talked rematch. Why don't we resurrect that wonderful old phrase "prizefighting", because there's no such thing as "professional" boxing. Any stooge or henchman can find employment seen firsthand, including as long as you know the right crook, (Jon Saraceno)

daring daylight heist. Lewis

got robbed. Holyfield, promot-

ed by King, was in the getaway

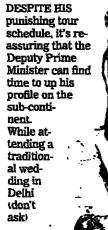
PANDORA

IT'S KATE Moss - and she's naked. Gallery owner Alex Proud is telling friends he will showcase a "world exclusive exhibition" of Croydon's poster girl, along with other snaps of undraped supermodels, on 4 September at his eponymous premises in London's Charing Cross Road. The pictures, recently teased in Dazed&Confused magazine, were shot at studios in Islington by rising kodachrome star Rankin people are starting to say he's the 21st-century Bailey.

HIGH SPIRITS and extreme gossip were on the menu at Proud's opening of Dennis Morris's portraits of Bob Marley (pictured) the other night. The Jamaican High Commissioner Derick Heaven, thesp Kristin Scott Thomas, model Sophie Dahl and Wimbledon striker Robbie Earle mingled with the throng as quondam Radio 1 DJ Lisa l'Anson conspicuously tried to mend fences with the fourth estate. Everyone was talking about Warner Brothers' rumoured green light for a biopic about old natty dreadlocks; word is that the as yet untitled Marley project will (finally) be ready to shoot at the end of this year.

WHODATHUNKIT? ICELAND grows its own bananas.

HURRAY FOR Holyrood! The polls say SNP trails Labour by 15 points in the 6 May Scottish election. So some pundits are now openly urging the SNP to hook up with the Lib Dems. Both SNP and Lib Dems share a penchant for tax-and-spend - and keeping Noo Labour out. Lib Dem Scottish leader Jim Wallace and Aberdeenshire MP Sir Robert Smith seem keen to share a wee dram with the ScotNats: even MPs Ray Michie and Malcom Bruce might be persuaded to rush down the aisle at Gretna Green for a marriage of mutual convenience. Michie and Bruce would certainly be popular in Salmond's pool: last year the duo published a pamphlet calling for the abolition of the national anthem, and a north-of-the-border ban on flying the Union Jack.





there was a sudden flutter among the gossamer veils and colourful saris as the bride turned to Our Number One Guy's Chief Steward and said: "Oh hello John, I know you – I'm from Enfield, you

GM FOOD isn't Monsanto's only claim to fame - the "life science" corporation also manufactured Vietnam War defoliant Agent Orange.

ARSENAL'S MOOTED move to the Millennium Dome site may have to be re-pitched. Experts say a rumoured 2300m Gunners bid to relocate to the club's original home near Woolwich Arsenal could run into lighting problems. "Even now modern stadia have a problem with light levels supporting good grass growth," says Geoff Perris, the Sports Research Institute's grounds supremo. According to Perris, it's a bigger problem than the site's toxic antecedents. A mouthpiece for English Partnership, the governmental agency that's keen to unload the property when the Millennium Experience exhibition closes in 2001, confirms it would be happy to dismantle "sections of the Dome" and "excavate hardstanding surfaces" to accommodate any footie clubs looking for a new stadium.

PEOPLE ARE saying Victoria Adams wants to be "an involved mother". Perhaps she's planning to pick the nanny herself

MAYBE IT'S a negotiating tactic, perhaps the circulation needs a boost, but Maggie Koumi, editor of Hello! magazine, has fired a warning shot across the grasping bows of the good ship Posh Becks, on whose decks nuptials are to be celebrated later this year. "The cost of buying stories has really spun out of control," Koumi told Press Gazette, the journalist's trade magazine this week. "I think (it's) quite frightening and it has to stop. Where will it all end? If a magazine pays £1m every week it'll go bankrupt." Hello!'s goodbye would break the fluttering hearts of a nation's shop girls - who'd presumably be left moving

their lips to the textual delights of rival OK! which. coincidentally, has ust dropped a bernie (£1m) to buy up the alleged story of Beckham and Adams's baby Brooklyn (emphatically

> Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@ indepen dent.co.uk

pictured).

I'm a non-starter at Cheltenham

IT IS the time of the year when unwelcome memories return. The feelings of nausea and emptiness in the stomach that are caused by nerves and weight-loss pills. The weighing-room backchat, the last instructions from connections, the moment when the sounds of the crowd fade and you are alone, on your way to the start. The various phrases that, to this day, can induce a shudder of embarrassment: "two pounds overweight... took no further part... unseated rider". Unhappy moments from the distant past, locked away for the rest of the year in the dusty back room of the memory, tend to escape during the days of the festival at Cheltenham,

Even now, when I move in a world where festivals involve writers sitting on a stage and musing thoughtfully about their art, the term still really only means Cheltenham's' National Hunt week, the one festival where, in spite of occasional fantasies (I could still just about do the weight for the Foxhunters), I can never appear. For the first 20 years of my life, I

dreamed of becoming a steeple-



While other students went on marches and found sex. I was getting up at 6.15 to ride out

chase jockey. It would be convenient to put this aberration down to the fact that I had been born into a family for the members of which horses and riding were a central part of existence; that my father was a successful amateur jockey and international show-jumper; that. throughout my childhood, I rode every day when I was at home. But

fantasy was mine, and it was not about hunting, eventing or showjumping; it had to be racing.

So my prep school heroes had four legs: Pas Seul, Saffron Tartan. Flame Gun, Kerstin. I kept scrapbooks filled with photographs cut every day from the racing pages of The Daily Telegraph. In the epic encounters between Arkle and Mill House, my brother and I took sides, arguing our support like other schoolboys following Liverpool or Manchester United.

My embarrassment today is only partly caused by the extent of my obsession. By the time I had reached my teens, I knew that, unlike my brother, I would not become a professional jockey but would be an elegant amateur, riding brilliantly and describing my exploits with becoming wit and modesty for the next day's papers. While others at Cambridge went on marches and demonstrations, discovered sex or advanced their careers in Footlights reviews, I was getting up at 6.15 to ride out at Willie Stephenson's Royston yard. The days when I

it would not be entirely true. The should have been listening to Raymond Williams, Tony Tanner, JD Broadbent or LC Knights, I spent travelling to Nottingham or Uttoxeter to ride some no-hoper in a hunter 'chase or novice hurdle. I must have been mad.

I could tell tales of being upsides Terry Biddlecombe on Fearless Fred at Warwick, of storming at the run-in at Ascot on Mile-a-Minute, of a driving finish here, a crashing fall there... But it would be unconvincing. The enduring memories of those years are of trying to lose weight, sweating it off or consuming a variety of revolting and debilitating pills, of feeling apart from the

racing scene and of not winning. Lester Piggott once said that the only point in taking part in race was to win; you might as will be last as be second. In retrospect, I can see that my brief, inglorious career as a jump jockey proved that I lacked that killer competitiveness. I came second a significant number of times. Even coming into the straight, the distant sound of the crowd reaching us over the grunts and kicks and shouts, I never quite shook off the nagging conviction that coming second was really not that terrible. It was better than third, and a lot better than "took no further part" or "unseated rider".

I was ashamed of this at the time and still feel uncomfortable with it. Competitiveness is so central a part of the way we live, particularly if we are male, that to be ambitious without particularly wishing to win at the cost of others seems pusillanimous. Perhaps it was no wonder that I ended up as a writer, a profession where, although competition is ubiquitous - you compete with the world, with your peers and, above all, with yourself - it is never head to head and public.

"To be any good you have to think you're the best of your generation," Martin Amis has said, and the sneaky competitive pride of writers will be fully on display at The Word, London's literary festival over the next couple of weeks. Some would say that, in a way, the rivalry between writers is every bit as tough as that between jockeys, but I know which winners' enclosure I believe is the toughest to reach.

Could someone explain why we are bombing Iraq?

THE ARMED forces of the United Kingdom and the United States are pursuing an undisclosed war against the regime in Iraq. A significant change has taken place to the rules of engagement within the "no fly zones", set up under the humanitarian clauses of United Nations Security Resolution 688. The two governments are pursuing an attritional campaign against Iraqi defence systems and military infrastructure that has gone far beyond the original purposes of the "no-fly zones".

Military force is a tool, it is not a policy. Its application is only justifiable in pursuit of a clearly stated political and strategic goal. As yet, no Government minister has come before Parliament to offer the people of Britain a coherent and plausible explanation as to why our air crews have been risking their lives. If luck runs out, it may be only a matter of time before we are forced to witness the sight of British aircrew dragged our television screens.

Last December's Operation strategic aims: to degrade Saddam's capacity to manufacture and deliver weapons of mass destruction, and to buy as much time as possible for the Allies to formulate a new strategy before Saddam was once again in a position to hold the Middle East to ransom. It had become apparent that the efforts of UN monitors to destroy Saddam's capacity to threaten his neighbours and repress his own people with weapons of mass destruction had become unsustainable. Desert Fox was a painful necessity and a last resort after all other means had failed.

This was an example of military force being used for a clear political purpose, with tightly defined tactics and a coherent long-term strategy. But for the repeated defiance and



MENZIES CAMPBELL

We may in time witness the sight of British air crew dragged through the streets of Baghdad

four-day operation would not have

The long-term strategy is still the right one: a satisfactory conclusion of the disarmament phase of the UN through the streets of Baghdad on reconstitution of Saddam's capacity to produce weapons of mass destruction; and a more sustainable Desert Fox had clear tactical and relationship with the Iraqi authorities based on respect for international law and full compliance with UN Security Council resolutions.

But the present operations over the north and south of Iraq seem to be taking place in a vacuum. The explanations of ministers have been less than satisfactory in both a political and strategic sense. They have made imprecise statements reserving the right of Allied forces to undertake "robust and appropriate defensive measures" against the "systematic attacks and threats to our aircraft" being launched by the Iraqi air force in the northern and southern no-fly zones.

what constitutes "robust and defensive measures" is, to say the least, an expansive one. Given recent deception of Saddam Hussein, this Allied action, it would appear to

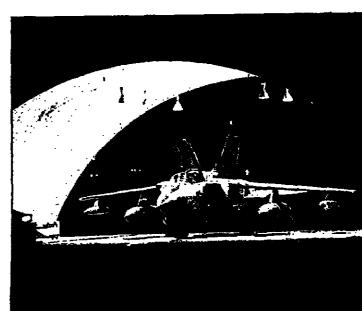
encompass a sustained, even daily, pounding of Iraq's integrated air defence system and command, control and communications facilities. For "defensive", read "offensive". There is a substantial distinction to be drawn between a defensive response to the threat of attack and, as is now taking place, the systematic destruction of Iraq's air defence system.

Such has been the absence of information from the Government that it is impossible for those outside the upper echelons of the military hierarchy to be sure exactly what the present strategy is. Has the Cabinet discussed and approved it?

Although United States officials have been equally reluctant to elucidate, they have said sufficient to allow one to deduce two shifts in olicy. First, that the present action is directly intended to disable, debilitate and then destroy Saddam. A senior US administration official mission in Iraq; the prevention of any is reported to have said: "We see Mr Saddam flailing. We are working towards a slow whittling-down of his power, his authority and his nerves".

Second, while the no-fly zones were initially established to protect the Iraqi Kurds in the north and the Shia Muslims in the south, for which the need still remains, recent comments by William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, suggest that the primary mission is no longer the same as at their inception. He admitted as much on 7 March, when he stated that the main role of US warplanes serving in the no-fly zones was now "to protect the region from Saddam making any kind of an aggressive assault upon them".

These policy alterations appear subtle in isolation, but when coupled with the change in the rules of Our Government's definition of engagement, they amount to the waging of a "mini undisclosed war". According to the Ministry of Defence figures released on 9 March, the total tonnage of British bombs dropped



An RAF Tornado in its hangar in Kuwait

subsequent to Desert Fox is 72 per is achieved and progress towards cent of the amount dropped during compliance is maintained. Desert Fox.

This situation cannot endure and civilian infrastructure and the continued suffering of its people.

The enforcement of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions has to remain the main focus, and that will require a new monitoring and inspection body. A preventative strategy of reformed sanctions and monitoring should be authorised through the UN, with clear, achievable objectives and backed by credible enforcement procedures: The threat of force should remain in the

event of sustained non-compliance. Changes must not be perceived as rewarding Saddam for his intransigence. The lifting of sanctions, for example on certain goods,

It is now time for the Government to declare its Iraq plan. Parliament indefinitely, and it is crucial that the does not need to be told, indeed present impasse is ended without should not be told, the terms of the further damage to Iraq's economic rules of engagement, but MPs and the country are surely entitled to know what the policy is and where it is leading. The present clandestine manoeuvring is damaging to parliamentary democracy and sets a precedent that future administrations could utilise.

If the thinking underpinning this continued offensive were not shrouded in secrecy, perhaps the deaths of at least 17 Iraqi civilians this year, due to stray Allied ordnance, could be explained. However, as the situation stands, this loss of life is a testament to the unexplained campaign now being waged.

Menzies Campbell MP is the Liberal should only be permitted once co- Democrat spokesman for Foreign operation with the monitoring body Affairs and Defence

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The rise and rise of e-commerce

qualification I have to develop my chosen theme of electronic commerce. Ecommerce covers all business and much of human life. Peowill be worth 60bn euros in three years' time.

Meteoric Internet companies are bought and sold on as a condition affecting many huge multiples, putting everyday household names in the onset of the Internet age. shade, yet they make losses.

The vague qualification I claim for talking on the subject is that the E-trading world starts and ends with informathe pump and lights the afterburner when the engines have got started. This gives me some confidence to dissect the principles involved.

Reuters operates in societies where even reporting the port with glee. The information facts is not acceptable. Perhaps it is because these societies are so riven with dissent or con- with the utmost facility across sumed with their growth a whole range of websites process that nobody can agree what the facts are. After a time this gives way to a social background in which the facts are fairly readily agreed

YOU MAY be asking may differ, and need to differ to yourselves what possible give the citizen the chance to help form his individuality. In the next stage, information is consumed for entertainment. facts often being rather immaterial - after all, there is no ple gaily make forecasts that it state of emergency, no secret police, you can always learn the facts if you really want.

This could be characterised industrial democracies at the A classic example was a re-

cent Internet website report that Hillary Clinton became so annoyed with her errant husband that she "lost it" and hit tion. It is the fuel that primes him so hard about the face that he had to wear make-up to cover up the bruise for a TV appearance. There was, as far as I know, no obvious reason to believe this, though the British newspapers published the rewas there, it was free. Random information can be searched which may have no particular track record or credentials. It's movement, it's action, it's

modern, it's transatlantic. It's also boring after a while.



PETER JOB From the 'Tacitus'

lecture delivered by the chief executive of Reuters at the Guildhall in London

emergence of a demand by the consumer to navigate his or her areas of interest in a more structured way guided by preferred information brand names that can be brought together easily.

To summarise the way things may go, let us look at electronic share broking. This is probably the most advanced version of E-commerce that there is in the world today. though opinions about them So we have to anticipate the Much attention is currently

focused on E-brokers who offer minimal cost of execution – perhaps eight dollars per trade instead of several hundred. But the price may fall fur-

ther, and they will have to gear up their fixed costs to handle larger and larger volumes, only to be left stranded perhaps by a cyclical fall on market turnover. I prefer the idea of a broker offering a totally integrated customer experience.

The investor clicks on a headline to find details of the target company, and a second click takes him into the realtime market where he can choose to trade. The information output measures his success. Keeping a chequing account with the same broker becomes a useful convenience. If he has a complex trade he can still phone up a human being, in return for a larger commission and, ultimately, if he is really in need of detailed advice, he still has the chance to go into a red brick building somewhere and discuss the matter. It is not difficult to see that this more complex chain of value could lock in loyal and satisfied rather than just opportunistic customers. Journalists usually know

better than to forecast matters immediately since they may be proven wrong. But I agreed to do this lecture so I had better give some kind of prognosis.

World electronic trade will develop further because information will be available to support transactions in a very convenient way. The providers of the information will make good margins because they will to a large extent re-use assets they already have. Aggregators will be there to

guide people through a random Internet world to the right place. They will make money because the cost of performing this function is not huge and advertisers will pay them for offering new and popular means of access to defined audiences. They will not need to or be able to enslave anyone else to their interests along the way.

Advertisers will benefit because they will be able to offer their clients new techniques of pinpointing particular market segments without changing their current means of reaching consumers through broadcast TV.

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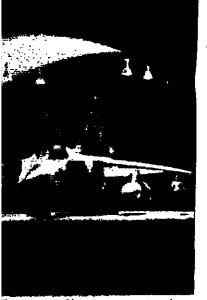
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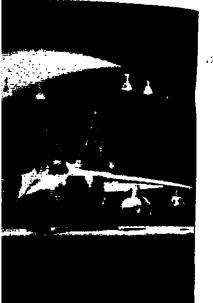
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Consuming the future



ANDREW **MARSHALL**

The creators of Bluewater know better than Hegel or Marx, for the key to world history is shopping

HEGEL SAW the World Spirit as the guiding force of history, shaping its evolution towards enlightenment. when consciousness returned to itself. For Marx, it was the ineluctable clash of contradictions within modes of production. The creators of the Bluewater centre, the behemoth that has risen in a former Blue Circle chalk quarry in north-western Kent, know better than these two 19th century prophets, however. The key to world

nistory lies in shopping. Shopping created the town centre, bringing consumer and pro-ducer together at the market, evolving into narrow streets filled with butchers, bakers and fishmongers, adding the high street, the department store and the urban

shopping centre. Now the vast forces of global capitalism are conspiring to ensure that in Britain, as in America, shopping means a pilgrimage to the mall. And with the shops go the cinemas, restaurants, play parks and hotels, creating cities outside the cities. It

Overwheimingly, shopping in America is about malls: small ones, set out in strips in ugly corners of town in between car muffler shops; larger ones in the suburbs, full of teenagers hanging out by the foun-tains; and massive ones out beyond the suburbs in artificially created centres with whimsical names where security guards keep order and real life gets left in the car park.

The rise of the mail results from the desire of property developers and retailers to part people from their money in the most efficient way possible. The land is cheap, the site is accessible, the car parks expansive; the mall itself is usually created in an entertaining and upmarket way, making it a day out for the family; and an effective way to find a broader choice than in the Mocal high street.

All this is not necessarily new, even for Britain. As Ian Jack pointed out in the paper some weeks ago, the rest of the country has been quietly succumbing for some time. Outside London, massive malls have already helped crush the old city centres, but Bluewater has sparked interest because it is right under the noses of Fleet Street, just



Putting the finishing touches to the Bluewater centre, the giant mall that opens today near Dartford in Kent

a half an hour from Docklands. Lakeside at Thurrock is in Essex, and so it was often ignored in London as if it were in a separate country. Bluewater is in Kent, however, much closer spiritually and geographically.

Enough damage has been done already. For anyone who has shopped in parts of Kent in the recent past, the attraction of Bluewater will be clear. Maidstone, for example, has little choice for shoppers beyond the Checkers Centre and the remaining small cluster of shops around the High Street selling shoes and birthday cards. Bigness has already eased out many of the older places that brought the centre some character.

There is not even a fish shop in Maidstone any more: Safeways did away with that. There is still a very decent butcher's or two, but probably the best is now in the Checkers centre. If you live around Maidstone and you want some choice in big-ticket items - furniture, for instance - then a trip to Bluewater will make sense, and will also be a day out.

Aside from the small towns, it is civic, cultural and social community the suburbs that will be badly hit. needs, it will make a most signifi-

The suburbs evolved as people no longer wanted to live where they worked; but they still shopped where they lived. Now, even that will It is no coincidence that Blue-

water is so close to Bromley, a quietish suburb of London with little public transport, a small high street and few large stores. If you live in Bromley, the choice before was either going to Croydon, which has a larger set of stores, or into central London. Now, Bluewater beckons enticingly. Just as in the US, the creation of a large pole of attraction just outside the city centre will fragment the suburbs and weaken the attraction of the local high street.

The first mall was built in 1956. south of Minnesota, by Victor Gruen, a visionary who saw the mall ("Every day is a perfect shopping day," read the publicity) was a piece of social engineering. "If the shopping centre becomes a place that not only provides suburbanites with their physical living requirements, but simultaneously serves their

cant contribution to the enrichment of our lives," he wrote in Shopping Towns USA, his version of Das Kapital. Of course, things have moved on

a little since then. Just four miles away from Southdale stands The Mall of America, a vast place with a daytime population of 100,000 which attracts charter flights from around the country. It has 14 cinemas, 25 restaurants, 27 fast food joints, and eight music venues. Eat your heart out, Maidstone.

Bluewater will eat out the heart of the surrounding towns. The popular wisdom is that the supermall is a catastrophe for urban development, shredding communities and forcing even more traffic on to the roads. And as so often, the popular wisdom is right. Bluewater will do dreadful damage as the future. His Southdale Centre to the smaller towns and suburban enclaves of north-western Kent, if the US is a model.

It is tempting to take a contrary tack, and point out that Bluewater is rising from the soil of Kent just as Sherman Oaks, the California mall that was the natural home of the fabled Valley Girls, is closing down. There is, it is true, a movement under way in America to reclaim city centres, using corporate and residential development to lure people back to the deserted urban centres which they fied in the 1960s. Several large American retailing chains are experimenting with smaller stores, targeted at the consumer who just wants some six-inch nails or a sheaf of legal pads, not a

two-hour expedition down the free-

way to a different state. A few branches of Office Depot and similar stationery shops in the city centres will not change mall culture, however. The aim is usually to eliminate any local competition - the stationery shop that has somehow escaped and remained in local ownership, for instance. And Sherman Oaks closed because there were bigger malls with better shops, not because everyone decided to go back for something "compelling", "arto the high street.

Nor does the repopulation of the city centre that is being experimented with in the US mean a return to some prelapsarian idyll of mom'n'pop stores, soda fountains and the General Store. The target population is usually relatively highincome couples with no kids who will spend cash on local restaurants

and shops. In general, the aim is to attract a few branches of big chain stores, so that Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy (virtually identical American clothing shops) have

miles out of the city. Does this mean that American business is unaware of the costs of this consumer apocalypse? No, not a bit of it.

a presence downtown as well as 15

The latest fashion is "retrofitting" suburban high streets recreating tiny boutique shops that sell bath salts and kitchen scales after all the normal shops have gone into exile. And the mallocrats have also started yearning for something new. At the International Council of Shopping Centres Conference in Las Vegas two years ago, they were fretting about the need chitectural", "particular", which

they called "a sense of place". The fact that through years of dedication, hard work and brutal greed they had managed to expunge this from virtually every square centimetre of urban America seems not have struck these people. They have built a desert, and they call it

RIGHT OF REPLY

NOLA BLOOR

A member of an adoption panel responds to calls to increase the rate of adoption of children in care

ACCORDING TO a report in The Independent ("Straw to act on adoption", 13 March), "Ministers are to take a tough line over obstructive social workers who are blocking the chances of adoption of thousands of children in councilmore likely to obtain no education qualifications, become jobless, sleep rough or end up in prison. Ministers blame social workers for being antiadoption and for using it as an option of last resort.

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I am an independent member of an adoption panel. I can tell you that there are not the people waiting to adopt children from council-run homes. That is the bottom line. There aren't.

Newspapers even carry advertisements for adopters with pictures of the children. Some get no response - I mean literally no response. It is heartbreaking for the child to know that he or she has been photographed to go into a newspaper ad "for a forever Mummy and Daddy", and to find no one wants them.

There are only too many wanting to adopt babies, but adopting a child with problems (which by the time they are four they have a lot of is more of a challenge. It is very different from bringing up your own child Some children do not want

to be adopted. Other children who at age two, say, would be comparatively easy to place on their own are very difficult to place when they have elder siblings of six and eight who must be placed as a family unit.

Prospective adopters such as the couple you mention not only have a right of appeal, they can speak to the media. Social workers cannot reply because of the duty of confidentiality. And the responsibility of entrusting the life and inging of a child to a couple is awesome. Social workers go about it in a very professional way. They want it to work. The consequences of failure are disastrous for everyone, most of all the child.

Let us not forget that adoption is for children needing families, not for adults wanting children.

A cool head in the Cold War

ARGUABLY TWO groups of contemsporaries stand out in the history of American politics. The Founding Fathers, who invented the US, were of course the first. The second, I would contend, was the set of high officials who served under President Harry Truman in the years after the Second World War. Their achievement was to invent the modern world. They include General George Marshall, George Kennan, Bob Lovett, Clark Clifford, John McCloy, Paul Nitze and – towering above even this august company – Dean Acheson.

Today, less than a decade after its end, the Cold War is almost forgotten. in retrospect, the victory hardly seems worth winning, devalued with each united Europe; a democratic Japan,

I can't exactly say.

as The Black Art. Though why or by whom

with an invention's magic air, or the fear

It probably simply came down to printers

being eternally bedaubed in black ink.

Lately I've been thinking along the lines

their own ink-black darkness -

of how certain composers set words out of

how strong the white spirits, they cannot

or the finger-printed hands of a gangster

like a weeping woman's mascara-smudged face,

From Greg Delanty's fourth collection, 'The Hellbox' (Oxford, £6.99),

many of whose poems stem from their author's upbringing

in a family of hot-metal printers

wash the ink from their hands, stained

that the spread of the word would undo souls -

Perhaps it had to do

And no matter



TUESDAY BOOK

ACHESON BY JAMES CHACE, SIMON & SCHUSTER, £25

passing day by the pathetic residue of what once was the Soviet Union. But back in 1940s and 1950s, the threat only was the Cold War won, the diplomatic architecture that enabled victory remains as the framework of today's world: the Atlantic alliance and Nato; a Germany (now united) anchored in the West; a prosperous and largely

and an America that placed and, despite periodic wobbles, still places internationalism above isolationism. could not have seemed more real. Not For all of this we must thank those few men in Washington, half a century ago. Acheson was an American original.

The British were fooled by his elegant manners, clipped moustache and mastery of the language into thinking he was one of theirs: a mid-Atlantic Anthony Eden, committed to preserving their Empire and place in the world. After all, his father had been Bishop of Connecticut; he had roomed with **TUESDAY POEM** Cole Porter at Harvard Law School; in his three-piece suits and homburg hats, he even looked like the Foreign WHITE SPIRITS Office's finest. Like the English too, he BY GREG DELANTY was a pragmatist. But he was a man of iron intellect and moral courage, who, unlike the English, looked stead-In the beginning, typography was denounced

> we ever did. Take his famous judgement that 1962, long after Acheson had retired, the remark stung with seeming novshunning the European Coal and Steel Community, the forerunner of today's EU, he was already warning that the Commonwealth was no solution, and that not even memories of Churchill would persuade Washington

fastly forward. Though an anglophile,

he saw our problems more clearly than

sabotage a stronger Europe. great biographer. Chace's is the third biography of Acheson. But it is the the attacks of the Wisconsin senator most complete, drawing on family records and new Russian and Chinese that he had "lost" China. But Acheson,

to be accomplice of British efforts to



If Dean Acheson contributed to the building of the Berlin Wall, he was also instrumental in its ultimate collapse

like a novel; the scholarship is meticulous yet unobtrusive, and the prose style yields nothing to Acheson's own

in his memoir Present at the Creation. Creation was the theme of Acheson's career. As Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs early in the war, he led planning for the Bretton Woods agreement, setting up the International Monetary Fund. As Deputy Secretary of State between 1945 and 1947, he helped elaborate the Truman Doctrine, committing Washington to Britain had "lost an empire and not yet resist the advance of Communism. found a role". When it was uttered in The Marshall Plan, that most generous act of enlightened self-interest. was formally unveiled by the Genereliy. A decade earlier, when Britain was al at Harvard in June 1947, but Ache-

Two years later, with Truman's reelection, Acheson became Secretary of State and the tempo quickened. Nato was established, Germany was divided, the Soviets exploded an atom bomb, Communism triumphed in China, and war broke out in Korea. At Happily, a great man has found a home, Joseph McCarthy emerged. A lesser man might have buckled before that he was "soft" on Communism.

archives. The narrative drives forward backed to the hilt by Truman, did not Their relationship was an attraction

of opposites, founded on absolute loyalty and the deepest friendship. Acheson never sought to usurp the ultimate decision. In return, Truman allowed him immense latitude. No Secretary of State this century has had more power, and none has used it with such lasting consequence.

After leaving office in 1953, he contimed to advise Democratic presidents. He stiffened JFK's spine in the 1961 Berlin crisis, and helped change Johnson's mind on Vietnam. During the Cuba crisis Acheson was more hawkish than the Kennedys, recommending airstrikes against Soviet missile sites. Even when overruled, he did not besitate to be JFK's envoy to explain American policy to General De Gaulle. By this time, Acheson was describing himself as "a pampered ghost among the bright new spirits... a sort of Ancient Mariner whose warnings only take on meaning ex post facto". A more fitting epitaph came from the "That was a man". Given the source,

there could be no higher praise. RUPERT CORNWELL

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Lowell Fulson

ONE DARK night in Mississippi, the After meeting the harmonica playblues singer and guitarist Lowell Fulson was told his life wasn't worth a nickel. His band's coach had accidentally jammed a white woman's car up against a bridge, bringing reducks running out of the woods. "It was my trumpet player caused the problem - he was from the South, Carolina, but wouldn't say yassuh, nossuh to them. I'm trying to calm the sheriff down, and he shouts, You know how much it costs me to kill you? A nickel. That's what the shell costs.' "

A lifelong pragmatist, Fulson placated the sheriff with the "yassuh, nossuh" that was obligatory social etiquette for a black musician in the American South in 1956. Retelling the story 40 years later, he bore littie resentment, convinced that the world the sheriff and his cronies epitomised had gone forever.

The sheriff had seen a worthless blues singer - Fulson was a bluesman, for sure. His credentials were impeccable, including launching the career of B.B. King, and writing bits like "Reconsider Baby", which became a staple of Elvis Presley's repertoire. But Fulson's influence stretched across genres, from the earliest of itinerant blues right up to the most sophisticated Nineties R&B.

When I spent a couple of days with Fulson and his manager-landlady Tina Mayfield in 1995, his career seemed lower than low-key. But that was the way he liked it. Relaxed, cheroot-chomping, he would get regular calls to guest with B.B. King, or from Eric Clapton's publishers, but where many would have parlayed such contacts into a starstudded comeback, Fulson was happy cutting small-label albums and playing the occasional Christmas show. If he reckoned he'd packed enough into the first 50 years of his life to allow him to take it easy for a decade or three, he had good reason.

It was Fulson's grandfather, Old Man Henry Fulson, who started it all. Brought over as a slave from Africa in the 1850s, he escaped, and was adopted by a Choctaw tribe, marrying a Choctaw woman - Lowell's grandmother - and building a reputation as a medicine man. Even at 90, Henry's hillbilly violin was still boisterous enough to entrance the young Lowell, who was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1921. Before long he was sneaking away with an uncle's guitar, always retuning it perfectly afterwards to conceal the unauthorised loan.

By his teens, Lowell Fulson had left home for a guitar-playing job with the Dan Wright String Band, who breached musical colour bars by playing "white" Western Swing. blues sequence refashioned into Angeles 6 March 1999.

er Texas Alexander in 1939, Fulson hit the road with him, once he had got hold of a new guitar from the pawnshop. He "had to give my old one back to my mother-in-law - she wouldn't have me playing no Devil's music on it". But as soon as Fulson had learned to work a crowd and stepped out on some solo dates, the draft intervened. In 1944 he was posted to the Pacific island of Guarn.

The navy wanted him on submarine duty. Fulson had different ideas: 'I bluffed my way into the kitchen, and worked up this special chicken dish for the base commander. That helped decide him I didn't need shipping out on no submarine." Soon he linked up win a black piano player, and a trio of white Bostoni-

'You'd think I was a fool, sitting there with my line out. But I didn't want no company. You can't use the music that everybody uses – you gotta regenerate everything'

ans, whom he schooled in country and western, and Louis Jordanstyle jump blues - both styles were a hit with American sailors and Guam natives alike.

Once honourably discharged, Fulson landed a record deal in Oakland, California, and brought over his brother Martin to play second guitar. They soon started making waves with songs like "Three O'Clock Blues" and "Everyday I Have the Blues". A young Memphis DJ called B.B. King was an enthusiastic plugger of Fulson's records; in return, Fulson gave "Three O'Clock Blues", publishing and all, to B.B. It would become King's first hit, and together King and Fulson would forge a whole new strand of blues music, more fluid and sophisticated than the gritty, urban

blues stomping out of Chicago. Fulson's first national hit, "Reconsider Baby", was typical, a standard

something suave, seductive and unique. The song came to him on a fishing trip: "You'd think I was a fool. sitting out there in Texas at night with a brand new Fleetwood Cadiliac next to me and my line out. But I didn't want no company. You can't use the music that everybody uses you gotta regenerate everything. Fishing relaxed me, and that helped."

"Reconsider Baby" 's hit status removed whatever stability Fulson's rollercoaster life had enjoyed. His success inspired his pianist, one Ray Charles, to try out on his own, taking several key band members with him. Fulson's sound was a crucial ingredient in Charles's groundbreaking recipe for soul, but Brother Ray did partly repay the debt by covering a Fulson song, "Sinner's Prayer". Forced to rely on session musicians, Fulson lost his way until the mid-Sixties, when he signed to a new label - at which point he nearly lost his name. A secretarial error at Kent. records rechristened him Lowell Fulsom, and the label insisted on sticking with the misspelt name for several years.

By 1967, blues was out of favour, but black Americans recognised Fulson's smooth R&B as soul, and put songs like "Tramp" and "Black Night" into the charts. Ironically, Fulson's rivals were more convinced of his genius than his own record label was - Otis Redding spotted "Tramp" as a hit, and recorded a version in a duet with Carla Thomas that outsold Fulson's original. If "Reconsider Baby" was Fulson's blues standard, covered by Elvis Presley and, more recently, Eric Clapton, "Tramp" was his soul staple, recorded or sampled by everyone from Joe Tex to Salt-N-Pepa, De La Soul and Prince.

Having given one song to B.B., Fulson was smart enough to keep hold of the rest, and a succession of covers helped him through the next lean period which preceded a modest revival in the Eighties and after By then, his audience was pretty much restricted to blues diehards. but Fulson had made his indelible mark on musical history. Whether you count his impact on B.B. King, and thence to Eric Clapton and just about every electric guitarist in the world, or Ray Charles, and hence the world of soul, his influence was pervasive, and was more recently honoured with induction to the Blues Hall Of Fame, plus a Grammy nomination, last year. Twenty-five cents will never be worth as much again.

Lowell Fulson, singer, guitarist and songwriter: born Tulsa, Oklahoma 31 March 1921; died Los

PAUL TRYNKA



Sidney Gottlieb

SIDNEY GOTTLIEB was living vindication for conspiracy theorists that there is nothing, however evil. pointless or even lunatic, that unaccountable intelligence agencies will not get up to in the pursuit of their secret wars.

For two decades he ran a CIA programme aimed at nothing less than control of the human mind. Its tools were mind-altering drugs, most notably LSD. Its subjects, almost all of them unwitting, were society's outcasts: prostitutes and their clients; mental patients, convicted criminals - people, in the words of one of Gottlieb's colleagues, "who could not fight back". At the end of it all, just as the conspiracy theorists. would have predicted, Gottlieb himself pronounced that the entire exercise had been a waste of time.

The project, called MKUitra. began in 1953, two years after Gottlieb had joined the agency as chief of its technical services division. It was a period when paranoia ruled at Langley, the Virginia headquarters of the CIA. At home, McCarthyism was at its apogee. Abroad, the Soviet Union and increasingly China were regarded as mortal threats. America had lost its nuclear monopoly, while field operations against Moscow would soon be thrown into turmoil by the obsession of James Jesus Angleton, head of CIA counterintelligence, that the agency had been penetrated by a mole at the highest levels.

Its leadership was also fixated by the fear that the great Communist powers were perfecting techniques of mind control - The Manchurian Candidate made real. The CIA. therefore, had to get its blow in first. Enter Sidney Gottlieb.

He was born in 1918 the son of Hungarian Jewish immigrants, but never adopted the faith; indeed much of the rest of his life was a search for religious fulfilment, via agnosticism. Christianity and even Zen Buddhism. His scientific abilities however were evident when he graduated summa cum laude in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin in 1940.

To his enduring disappointment, a club foot barred him from active service in the Second World War. Instead his patriotism would find its outlet in the CIA, where the war had never ended. Only the enemy had changed.

Gottlieb's contribution was to oversee MKUltra. From the early 1950s through most of the 1960s hundreds of American citizens were administered mind-altering drugs. One mental patient in Kentucky was given LSD for 174 consecutive days. In all the agency conducted 149 mind-control experiments. At least one "participant" died as a result of the experiments and several others

went mad. The most bizarre brainwave of Gottlieb (himself a frequent user of LSD) was to set up a string of CIAcontrolled brothels in San Francisco which operated for eight years. Prostitutes would slip drugs to their customers, and the results would be observed by agency officials through two-way mirrors. Such was the clandestine contribution of the city of flower power to the national war effort in Vietnam. Unfortunately its visible contribution, of spawning a hippy movement which led the protest against the war, was far more effective.

Gottlieb's inventiveness also ran to few weeks before her death, she sent | a variety of assassination plots against various foreign targets. He perfected a contaminated handkerchief for use against an Iraqi colonel, poisoned presents that were to eliminate the troublesome Fidel Castro, and a poisoned ed and on the day she died, the BBC | dart designed to get rid of Patrice Lu-

Gottlieb retired in 1972, having concluded that all his work had been useless. That however did not deter the CIA from awarding him its highest honour, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, before it destroyed the bulk of the MKUltra files.

In his way Sidney Gottlieb was a loyal servant of American government - but his ways differed only in degree from the experiments for which the wartime allies, among them the US, sent Nazi doctors to the gallows for crimes against humanity. But, as John Marks, author of The Search for the Manchurian Candidate: the CIA and mind control (1979), the definitive work on the subject, wrote: "He never did what he did for inhumane reasons. He thought he was doing exactly what was needed. And in the context of the time, who

Gottlieb's life after the CIA resembled a quest for atonement. With his wife Margaret, he spent 18 months in India running a leper hospital. He then moved back to rural Virginia, where he indulged two longstanding hobbies, folk dancing and goat herding. He devoted his final years to work in a hospice, looking after the dying.

RUPERT CORNWELL

Sidney Gottlieb, chemist and intelligence officer: born New York 3 August 1918; married 1942 Mar-

Tanya Matthews



Matthews was the Voice of the BBC from Tunis, filing daily reports for the BBC African Service from her beautiful Moorish house in the Tunis suburb of Sidi Bou Said. Her style was pure idiosyncrasy:

OVER FOUR decades, Tanya

despatches written long-hand, often on the backs of envelopes, and delivered in emphatic and slightly over-enunciated English (reflecting her Russian roots) down the telephone line to the World Service in London. Her subject was Tunisia, in all its aspects but especially the scandal and intrigue at the "court" of President Habib Bourguiba, one of Africa's longest-serving leaders.

Indeed, it was Bourguiba who provided Matthews with her greatest "scoop", for she was the first to report the coup which ended his increasingly erratic rule in 1987. In typical fashion, she had received an early morning call from an old Tunisian girlfriend in Paris telling her, "Get to work, you have a new regime!" Two years earlier, Matthews had had an equally notable success: she was the first journalist

inside the PLO compound near dence. When Ronnie died in Tunis Tunis after it had been bombed by in 1966, it was to Tanya - by this time Israeli jets.

Tanya Matthews began life as Tatiana Borissova in the Chechen capital, Grozny, in 1913. She married young, to a revolutionary cameraman. They fled to Moscow after she got into trouble with the KGB. It was there that she met and fell in love with the British correspondent Ronnie Matthews. She divorced her husband and fled Russia in 1944 with her new British spouse and baby son, Christopher, but she was forced to leave Anna, the daughter from her first marriage, behind.

The couple made their way to Paris where, having fallen on hard times. Tanya played the casinos to keep the family affoat. Ronnie encouraged her to write and her twovolume autobiography, Russian Child and Russian Wife in 1949 - the first account of life inside Stalin's Russia - and Russian Wife Goes West (1955), made quite a stir. In London, Ronnie was recruited by the BBC and sent in the late Fifties to Tunis to cover the Algerian war of indepen-

with formidable local contacts and knowledge - that the BBC African

Service looked to be its reporter. Tanya Matthews's journalism was pure and simple, with no holds barred. Any other foreign reporter would have been expelled for writing half as much as she got away with. Only she could describe Tunisia as a police state without being bundled on to the first plane. But she was smart - she had an amazing network of influential friends to discourage any rash move by the authorities.

It wasn't unusual to go to dinner with her and find yourself in the company of a dozen or more ambassadors; she collected them. She counted local politicians at the heart of power among her friends too: she had taught many of them English when they were younger. When she was knocked over and hurt by a Tunisian policemen, it was a government minister who rushed to her hospital bedside with a bouquet of flowers almost as large as himself.

Matthews wasn't always easy to work with; she was ferociously competitive, even with her BBC colleagues. She wouldn't speak to me for days after the Tunisian prime minister rescheduled a joint interview. I had been unable to reach her to tell her about the new time

because she was out playing golf. She didn't believe I had tried because I was "obviously intent on The competitiveness found another outlet in the golf, which she took up in her sixties and be-

came a passion every bit as strong as journalism. She was a familiar sight hacking her way through the dust mounds that pass for a golf course in Tunis every afternoon, invariably giving the ball some

African Service broadcast the piece on its evening transmission. She invariably giving the ball some

African Service broadcast the piece on its evening transmission. She would have liked that. "unnatural" propulsion towards the hole. Before golf there had been table Tatiana Svetlova Borissova

lenged her to play his young com- March 1999.

panion. He turned out to be a member of the national youth squad. Matthews, for once, was speechless. She was stunningly attractive as

a vounger woman and extremely elegant in old age. She was a working journalist to the very end. Although in poor health for some time, and despite an operation which had affected her voice, she continued to send her reports by phone to London. Only a a despatch relating how she had got her greatest scoop, the coup against Bourguiba. There seemed to be no reason for her to file it at the time; but, fortunately it had been record-

PAUL LEGG

tennis. Apparently, she was an out- (Tania Matthews), journalist and standing player in her youth in the author: born Grozny, Russia 31 Caucasus. She delighted in thrashing her ambassador friends until one ing her ambassa day the Chinese ambassador chal- one adopted son!; died Tunis 3

Paul Wagaba

ON 1 March the tragic news broke uated at the top of his class at the that in a brutal bid for internation- Katwe Wildlife College. Dennis al publicity Rwandan rebels had Babasa, his professor there, restormed the Bwindi Impenetrable members him as one of the bright-National Park headquarters in est students he ever taught and an Uganda and killed eight tourists especially skilled communicator. He and one Ugandan. A great deal was was ideally suited for his role as reported at the time about the Community Conservation Warden at tourists who died but there was barely a mention of Paul Wagaba. a park warden, who was murdered during the assault.

Wagaba deserves to be remembered not just for his heroic actions defending the tourists, but also for the outstanding contribution he rounded by agricultural land in one made to the conservation of Bwin-di Park, famous as home to over gions of central Africa. It also bormade to the conservation of Bwinhalf of the world's 650 remaining mountain gorillas.

Born in the Mpigi District of Uganda in 1966, Paul Wagaba became a talented student and grad-

Bwindi Park which he took up in 1995, and where he was given the task of bringing the local people on board to help protect the forest.

Set up as a National Park in 1991, Bwindi faced an uncertain future. It had become a forest island, surdered Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, a region wracked by civil war.

When the park was founded, relations with local communities were

at a very low point. People were ac- DTC and the Institute of Tropical customed to taking what they needed from the park and they resented the loss of access to a forest which they depended upon for essential resources such as medicines and agricultural products. The park was threatened by encroachment and the gorilla population was in decline.

Wagaba played a critical role in helping to forge unprecedented agreements between local people and the park to give the communities controlled access to non-timber resources in Bwindi. By doing so he was helping to secure the future not only of the park but also of the local people.

In addition he worked closely with many of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that had community-based projects in the park. including those run by WWF, CareForest Conservation

By last year, encroachment into the park had ceased and the gorilla population had at last stabilised. This was a major achievement in such a poverty-stricken and unstable region and stands as a classic case study of how conservation can be achieved by addressing the development needs of the local people.

Wagaba firmly believed in passing these conservation values on to future generations and invested considerable time presenting conservation education programmes to children living in the area and to school groups visiting Bwindi. He was known as an excellent communicator and people of all ages and all parts of society liked and trusted him. A long-time friend and colleague.

Benon Mugyerwas, described how

Wagaba served as a role model to the months old. He was buried on 5 junior wardens and rangers working with him, always willing to offer guidance and help them overcome problems. A colleague from the Uganda Wildlife Authority said. "He was the kind of man who would try to mediate in any conflict. The rebels would not have welcomed that "

Although the tragic incident at Bwindi is likely to lead to a serious decline in eco-tourism and a consequent reduction in the capacity of the Ugandan Wildlife Authority to conduct conservation work all over the country, Wagaba has left behind a legacy of strong community relations which provide some hope for Bwindi Park.

March near his mother's home in Kasero-Buloba near Kampala Wagaba had planned to further his

knowledge of park management by could argue?" taking a diploma at the Mweka College of Wildlife Management in Tanzania Considering his strong interest in education and the crucial need for training local people of his calibre, a scholarship scheme is being set up in his name at Mweka College so that other young Ugandans can carry on his work. Contributions can be made to WWF-UK Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming GU7 1XR.

EDWARD MATTHEW

Paul Wagaba was the last sur- Paul Wagaba, conservationist: viving child of 12 brothers and sisters and leaves behind a wife and five married (five children); died ters); died Washington, Virginia 7 children, the youngest of whom is 18 Bwindi, Uganda 1 March 1999. March 1999.

BIRTHS. ARRIACIES MA & DEATHS

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The project called high

petun m 1675 two years apply they had joined the agency are the factories designed to the control of the contr was a belief after branch Lampley, the Virginia headans of the CLL At home, McCatha with all the CLL At home, McCatha with all the capacity of the CLL At home with the CLL At home with the capacity of were regarded as moral to America had last as meles majorly, while field operations as Mes cow would soon be throng turned in the obsession of the Jesus, Ambeton, head of ClAmintelligence, that the agency price beam track by a most highest levels.

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Harry 1997 # Mary - 1963

ould come to us on the terraces.

casting doubt on Swan's parentage.

flected, "If Govan had been playing the

4-4-2 he would have been a riot as an

overlapping full back. But he was told

by Harry Swan not to go beyond the halfway line - and that was after he had

scored two goals for us from the full back

Govan was born in Larkhall, that La-

narkshire mining-town cradle for so

many footballers, of a father who had 21

bullet wounds in his body to show for his

time in the trenches of the First World

War, and who became a shoemaker/cob-

bler. Educated at Larkhall Academy,

Govan came into contact with the ever-

encouraging chemistry teacher Willie

Herbison - brother of the future cabi-

net minister Peggy Herbison – who was

Halfway through his seven-year-long

mining engineer apprenticeship, as a 20-

year-old, Govan got a lucky break, when

the regular first team full-back David

Shaw had a temporary cartilage prob-

lem. For Jimmy Kerr, 16 years the Hibs

regular goalkeeper, Govan was not only

a great friend, but a full back, displaying intelligent consideration for his "keeper".

hanced by the fact that the team captain

for many matches was a guest player,

Govan made the most of his luck, en-

in charge of football.

position in the first six games."

Jock Govan



When Jock Govan took his teeth out he meant business': Govan in action against Celtic

warrant officer Matt Busby, temporarily stationed in wartime Edinburgh. Even then his benign influence and quaiities of leadership made an indelible

impression on the young players.

My father in law, John Wheatley, who hardly missed a Hibs home match (and who as an appeal court judge conducted the inquiry into the 1970 Brox disaster and safety at football grounds), was no mean judge of a player. He reckoned Govan made a massive contribution to the Hibernian league and cup-winning teams of the late 1940s. Wheatley thought he was not only a great entertainer, with an enormous punt when required, but displayed a shrewd football brain.

For Lawrie Reilly, "Jock was probably one of the best full-backs with whom I ever played. He was very fast and he was capable of long strikes." Reilly added that they were room mates on the Hibernian extended tour of North America in 1949 and that Govan was a man of no airs and graces. He was also a fine athlete, good at snooker, good at bowls, with an excellent eye for a ball. And, quipped Reilly: "When Jock Govan took his teeth out, he meant business and I

was thankful that he was always on my side!"

Although he won caps against Wales Switzerland, Belgium, France and Northern Ireland, the apex of Govan's career came on 10 April 1948 when I was among the 135,000 who squeezed into Hampden Park. Scotland lost 2-0 - but it was the best England side that ever I saw. It read Frank Swift in goal, Laurie Scott and George Hardwick the captain, Billy Wright, Neil Franklin, and Harry Cockburn, Stanley Matthews, Stanley Mortenson, Tommy Lawton, Stan Pearson and Tom Finney.

Poor Govan got the blame for the first of the two England goals. This is how the association football correspondent of the Press Association reported it: of the Press Association reported it.

When all else is forgotten we shall remember the move that suddenly and quite against the run of play put England into the lead a minute before half time. Swift found Lawton with a clearance; the centre forward flicked the ball to Pearson and Finney, taking a perfect through-pass in his stride, beat Young and Govan by balance and footwork to shoot magnificently past Black. The ball had in fact travelled from the England goal area into the Scottish net without a Scottish player touching it, and so England

went in for the interval with a goal out of the textbook and out of the blue. The consensus of opinion in Scotland

the then young Tom Finney at his rampant best was easier said than done and that George Young of the Rangers and Jock Govan should be forgiven. The PA correspondent added: Scotland's basic plan was certainly a success up to the moment Finney altered the course of events, but their forwards had falled to push home the advantage Govan, Shaw,

by Monday morning was that stopping

Young, and Macaulay had gained for them. After his football career ended Jock Govan got a job with Ferranti's in Crewe Toll, the weapons division, in Edinburgh. Later he returned to work as a mining engineer. For his last six years he was housebound, lovingly cared for by his wife Betty; she related that, even

then, his humour never deserted him.

TAM DALYELL

Thomas ("Jock") Govan, footballer and mining engineer: born Larkhall, Lanarkshire 16 January 1923; married Betty West (one son, one daughter); died Edinburgh 19 February 1999.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

Universal problem solved with triangles

SCIENCE DOESN'T always have to be so complicated that you need a PhD in physics just to understand the question, let alone the answer. Partly through luck, have recently been

involved in a piece of scientific research which addressed one of the fundamental questions – how old is the Universe and provided an answer using the same elementary geometry that surveyors use in measuring distances by triangulation.

I admit that the breakthrough would not have been possible without access to a pretty sophisticated "theodolite" - the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), orbiting above the Earth's atmosphere. But the way we made the measurement is

schoolroom science. We know the Universe is expanding because of the famous redshift in the light from distant galaxies, which tells us they are moving apart. Clearly, in that case there was a time, long ago, when they were all piled on top of each other - the Big Bang, in which the Universe was born. But, in order to find out when that happened, we need to know the distances to galaxies, as well as their speeds. Then, working out how long it has been since the Big Bang is as simple as working out how long it takes to get from one motorway junction to another in a car Since redshifts are known, distances are the key to the age of the Universe. But how do von measure distances to galaxies?

The galaxies we are interested in are disc-shaped star systems like our Milky Way, typically about 100,000 light years across (so it takes light 100,000 years to get from one side to the other) and each containing several hundred billion stars like the Sun. Even the nearest of these disc galaxies are millions of light years away, and it takes the power of the HST to pick out even the brighter individual stars

But, with the aid of the HST comparing the brightness of individual stars in nearby galaxies with essentially identical stars in our Milky Way, it was possible, by the mid-1990s, to measure accurate distances to those nearby galaxies. This answered a question that had nagged astronomers for decades. Were the other disc galaxies big objects like the Milky Way, and relatively far away, or smaller islands in space, relatively nearby? It turns out that they are big and distant, and that the Milky Way is almost exactly average in size.

within those galaxies.

But distances to the nearest galaxies are not enough to tell us how the Universe as a whole is expanding. Happily, though, there are thousands travelling at 50mph if the two of disc galaxies, all with

junctions are 50 miles apart. known redshifts, so far away that even the HST could not pick out individual stars in them, but for which telescopes on Earth (and the HST) can measure their anj up

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gular size (the apparent width of the disc) on the sky. Because (thanks to the HST) we now know the range of sizes of disc galaxies, Simon Goodwin, Martin Hendry and I were able to calculate distances to these more distant objects, representative of the Universe at large, from how small they look on the sky:

I am always reminded of the classic episode of the television comedy Father Text where Ted tries to explain to Dougal the difference in size between a toy model of a cow in his hand, and a live cow on the far side of a field. Big things look small when far away. It's just a matter of perspective - and if we know how big galaxies really are, we know how far away they are from the angle each one subtends on the sky.

And that - really - is all there is to measuring the age of the Universe. The answer, if you really want to know, comes out as between 13 and 16 billion years (three to four times the age of the Earth), which. happily, is comfortably older than the ages of the oldest stars. And it's all done with triangles.

John Gribbin is the author of 'The Birth of Time' (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20)

Lania

IF THE message and the music of tango is a way of life, as many in Buenos Aires like to believe, then the city's passion for its own morose creation is part of the legend that cities make for themselves. "Tania" was one of its most legendary tango singers.

She was born Ana Luciano Divis in Toledo, Spain, in 1901, and left Valencia. where she was known as "La Lucianito", "Tania Visdi", and "Tania Mexican", to arrive in Buenos Aires in 1924, apparently aged 21. She was a member of the "Troupe Iberica", a song-and-dance group performing at the Casino theatre. a night haunt once famous and part of the scene that made Buenos Aires known as the "Paris of South America".

She stayed on in Buenos Aires and became simply "Tania". In 1927, she be

came the lover of the musician Enrique Santos Discepolo, tango composer and lyricist, the author of some of the most trenchant social comment in the tango spectrum - one of which, "Cambalache", written in 1935, was banned by the dictatorship in 1976. Discepolo called Tania his muse. They didn't marry, but she never left his side until his death at 50, in December 1951.

Tania's career took off in the 1930s. at the Buenos Aires version of the Parisian Folies Bergère (the French name was used). She sang the compositions of all the tango greats, Anibal Troilo, Enrique Cadicamo, Osvaldo Miranda, Homero Manzi, Francisco Canaro, and became a radio star, then toured cities in Spain, France and the United States.

She declined after Discepolo's death, in part because of the political rejection he suffered for having become a supporter of the dictator Juan Domingo Perón and the Peronist regime which was overthrown in 1955. In the 1960s. tango went out of fashion and really did not come back into full popular appeal until the early 1980s, when the fashion spread world-wide.

By then, it was Tania's recordings from the 1930s that became popular listening and part of the legend. And she lived on this legendary appeal to the very end

ANDREW GRAHAM-YOOLL

Ana Luciano Divis ("Tania"), tango singer: born Toledo, Spain 1901; died Buenos Aires 17 February 1999.



Tania: sang the tango greats

Extent of waiver of professional privilege

THE WAIVER of legal pro-fessional privilege, implicit in the bringing of proceedings by a former client against a former solicitor alleging negligence in the handling of a commercial transaction between the client and a third party, did not extend to confidential communications between the client and a different solicitor instructed to pursue the claim

against the third party. The Court of Appeal allowed the plaintiffs' appeal against an order requiring them to disclose to the defendant certain confidential communications between themselves and their solicitors.

The plaintiffs, who were mortgage lenders, claimed damages for professional negligence from the defendant firm of solicitors, which had formerly acted for them in connection with insurance claims arising out of defaults on mortgages. The defendant had withdrawn as the plaintiffs' solicitor in 1993, and thereafter Slaughter & May had acted for the plaintiffs.

The defendant strongly contested the allegations of negligence made by the plaintiffs. The defendant sought disclosure of certain confidential communications between the plaintiffs and Slaughter & May and counsel concerning claims made by the plaintiffs against the insurers and the pursuit and settlement of those claims. The judge granted the de-

fendant's application, bolding that if a client sued his former solicitor, claiming damages for alleged negligence in the handling of a commercial transaction between the client and a the client, whose privilege

IN THE bar-parlour of the

Angler's Rest, Francis

Wheen's fatigue at prun-

ing the word "fretful"

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Waugh scholar Michael

Davie: no sooner had he

overcome flu than his wife

summoned three double-

glazing salesmen, each of

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

16 MARCH 1999

Paragon Finance plc (formerly known as National Home Loans Corporation plc) and others v Freshfields (a firm)

Court of Appeal (Lord Bingham of Cornhill CI, Lord Justice Brooke and Lord Justice Chadwick) 11 March 1999

third party, the client's waiver of legal professional privilege, which was implied by the bringing of the proceedings against the former solicitors. applied not only to confidential communications between the client and those former solicitors relating to that transaction, but also to confidential communications between the client and different solicitors whom he later instructed to pursue and settle his claim against the third party. The plaintiffs appealed. Stewart Boyd QC and Charles Hollander (Slaughter & May) for

the plaintiffs; Simon Browne-Wilkinson and Bankim Thanki (Barlow Lyde & Gilbert) for the defendant.

Lord Bingham CJ, handing down the judgment of the court, said that the protection afforded by legal professional privilege was absolute unless

it was, expressly or impliedly waived it. When a client sued a solici-

tor who had formerly acted for him in negligence, he invited the court to adjudicate on questions directly arising from the confidential relationship which had formerly subsisted between them.

Since court proceedings were public, the client brought the formerly confidential relationship into the public domain. and thereby waived any right to claim the protection of legal professional privilege in relation to any communication between them so far as necessary for the just determination of his claim.

In the present case the plaintiffs had, by bringing the proceedings, impliedly waived any claim to legal professional privilege in relation to confidential communications between themselves and the defendant concerning the transactions in question up to the moment when the defendant had ceased to act, but had not invited the court to adjudicate on any question arising from their confidential relationship with

Slaughter & May.
They had not, therefore, brought that confidential relationship into the public domain. The court was of the clear opinion that the principles in Lillicrap v Nalder & Son (a firm) [1993] 1 All ER governed the matter, and was fortified in that view by the decisions in Nederlandse Reassurantie Groep Holding NV v Bacon & Woodrow (a.firm) [1995] 1 All ER 976 and R v Derby Magistrates' Court, ex p B [1995] 4 All ER 526.

KATE O'HANLON

VICKERS: On 12 March 1999, in Hampshire, to Elizabeth (nee lickers) and Hugo, a son surthur Hugo Blyth).

BIRTHS,

MARRIAGES

& DEATHS

BIRTHS

DEATHS

WHITMARSH: John Marshall, of Richard's Castle, near Ludlow. On 9 March, peacefully, in his 90th year, after many months of illness. Widower of Betty, much-loved father, inther-in-law grand-father and great-grandfather. Donations to Amnesty Interna-tional or cancer research, co A.

IN MEMORIAM

BROADBRIDGE: Dad On the 10th anniversary of your death, Lloved and greatly missed by Four children, Charlie, David, Jo and Kate.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Ben Aris, actor, 62; Mr Matthew Bannister, Chief Executive, BBC Production. 42; Miss Sybille Bedford. writer, 88; Miss Teresa Berganza, mezzo-soprano, 64; Mr Bernardo Bertolucci, film director, 58; The Right Rev Hugo de Waal, Bishop of Thetford, 64:

Sir John Drinkwater QC. a Commissioner of Income Tax, 74; Sir Philip Foreman, former chairman, Short Bros. 76; The Right Rev Peter Forster, Bishop of Chester, 49; Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, Chairman Emeritus, Cheshire Foundation, 82; Mr David Heath MP, 45; Mr Ramon Hnatyshyn, former Governor-General of Canada, 65; Sir Ewart Jones, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, Oxford University, 88; Sir Anthony Kenny, Warden, Rhodes House, 68; Mr Jerry Lewis,

comedian, 73; Mr Leo Mc-

Kern, actor, 79; Miss Kate

Nelligan, actress, 48; Mr Richard Puttick. former chairman, Taylor Woodrow, 83; Miss Bridget Rowe, former managing director, Sunday Mirror and The People, 49.

ANNIVERSARIES

GAZETTE

Births: Georg Simon Ohm, physicist, 1787; Sir John Lavery, painter, 1856. Deaths: Tiberius Claudius Nero, Roman emperor, 37; Aubrey Vincent Beardsley, artist and illustrator, 1898. On this day: the first Football Association Cup Final was played, at Kennington Oval, when the Wanderers beat the Royal Engineers 1-0, 1872; the New English Bible (Old Testament), a new translation, was published, 1961. Today is the Feast Day of St Abraham Kidunaia, St Eusebia of Hamage, St Finian Lobhair (The Leper), St Gregory Makar, St Heribert of Cologne and St Julian of Antioch.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Rebecca Lyons, "Ingres and . . . (iii): Ingres and Delacroix", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Marie Claude Elliot, "Nature and Landscape in 19th-century Britain , 2pm. Tate Gallery: James Heard, "Drawing the Body: end of the academies", 10m. British Museum: Eleanor Robson, "Investigating Ancient Near Eastern Science", 3pm.

DINNERS

European-Atlantic Group The Turkish ambassador, Mr Ozdem Sanberk, was the speaker at a European-Atlantic Group dinnerdiscussion held yesterday at St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1. His subject was "Turkey's Relations with Europe". The Earl of Limer ick was the chairman. Sir Michael Burton also spoke.

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS** The Queen holds an investiture

at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF-International attends the Heads of State Conference in Cameroon. Prince Edward, Patron, London Mozart Players, attends a concert and dinner at St James's Palace, to mark the orchestra's 50th maniversary. The Duke of Gloucester visits the Royal Mint, Liantrisant, Mid Glamorgan; and, as Grand Prior, Order of St John, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance Wales visits Tredegar House, Gwent. The Duke and The Duchess of Gloncester visit Clytha Primary School, Gwent; and attend a special celebration service for the installation of the new Chancel-

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard, Horse Guards, 11am F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

Words

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE senior, adj.

with the books on the shelves ("I very much

prose and recalls that Robert Stephens, the Arabist, always asked, "are you a 'however' or 'nevertheless' man?"

Meanwhile, Anthony Sampson said that an American recently called a lapse of memory "a senior enjoy opera myself"). moment". Adds Sampson, "I Davie remarks that he has can't recall who it was - a whom claimed kinship to excise "crucial" from his senior moment!"

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

The turn of the screws

Professional, personable and caring. That's what prison officers think of themselves. Got a problem with that? By Angela Devlin

he "screw" occupies a ispecial place in popular culture. In prison slang, there are at least 30 words for a prison officer, from rhyming slang (Scooby[doo], Dr Who, four-betwo, kanga[roo]) to direct abuse. Television gives us Porridge's Mackay and Cell Block H's Freak, and news coverage focuses on negative aspects such as the recent alleged brutality at Wormwood Scrubs. But last night's BBC documentary Jailbirds challenged this view, and in May, a new ITV drama series (also called Jailbirds but set in a fictional women's prison) looks set to continue the debate.

The BBC series was filmed at HMP New Hall, a prison in Yorkshire which holds 400 women. The director, Chris Terrill (HMS Brilliant, Soho Stories, The Cruise), was given eight months' unprecedented access to this closed world. He admits that initially he shared the public view of prison officers: "I thought they'd be rough, tough and unsympathetic, with no humanity about them. The reality, I found, is very different. The modern prison officer is professional and caring."

Last night's programme, "Through the Gates", began with a group of women being delivered by van to the jail and taken through the reception process by officer Debbie Martin, a 31-year-old who loked her way through the indignities of the mugshot and the strip-search. An older officer spent hours on the phone trying to sort out family problems for newcomer Toni, 28, a heroin addict. A darker side of prison reality began to seep through when Toni attempted suicide and six officers manhandled her along the corridor into a segregation cell. The series explores some challenging issues: in the programme to be screened on Easter Wednesday, the Governor, Mike Goodwin, confronts a self-mutilating prisoner in a manner that viewers may find shocking.

I asked six women ex-prisoners and six prison officers what they thought of last night's programme. All the prisoners strongly disapproved of Governor Goodwin. Kay is in her sixties and has served time in Holloway and HMP Bullwood Hall in Essex. "The male officers resort to sarcasm because most of them are either embarrassed or

frightened of women prisoners." Marie, 42, did seven months in Holloway and Bullwood Hall in Essex for cannabis offences. "The reception officer. Debbie, talked to that new prisoner like a kid even though the woman was older than her," she said. "Comments like that are typical and they're just what you don't need when you get to prison.

"Most of the screws aren't sensitive to your problems because they just don't have the imagination to put themselves in your position and consider what you might be feeling like. They regard you as different, criminal, not proper human beings. They gossip about what you're in for, but they're not interested in the problems that got you

into trouble in the first place." At HMP Cookham Wood in Kent, the Governor, Colette Kershaw, disagrees: "My officers would have no





Debbie Martin, above left, described as 'laughing and joking her way through a strip search' in 'Jailbirds', is a far cry from the dated image of female warders in TV's 'Prisoner: Cell Block H'

knowledge of a prisoner's offence, exact role: "Of course there'll always unless they'd been assigned to a woman as her personal officer."

Kershaw feels that although Jailbirds gives a fair picture of prison life, viewers may miss the underlying tensions: "Officers find certain parts of their work, like the strip-search, just as distasteful as the prisoners do. You can do it in a cold. clinical, professional way, but a lot of a joke to avoid embarrassment on both sides and relieve the tension."

"It's all about forming relationships," says a male officer, "but that's done later, not at the reception process when a lot of the women are in too much shock to talk. Once they've settled in, they'll be given a personal officer with whom you hope they will form a trusting relationship. I've been in the Prison Service 23 years and the work now is far more interesting because you get

more involved with the prisoners." Anne, a younger officer, says it's important to define the officer's

be a divide, but you can still establish a rapport. I say to the women: 'I didn't put you in here. The judge and jury did that. It's my job to look

after you in here." So what makes a good prison officer? Governor Kershaw and her staff were unanimous: common sense, a sense of humour and good communications skills. As Officer of officers feel it helps to make a bit Anne put it: "You've got to be caring and sensitive to prisoners' needs. But then there's the other side, like locking people up and using restraint techniques to take them to the segregation unit. That side of it has to be done with absolute professionalism following the set rules.

> But you can still personalise it. "A third of our prisoners here are foreign nationals and we're encouraged to say good morning to each woman in her own language."

stance, most of us think it's terrible

that foreign drugs mules can't be

"And we do try to influence policv." adds Governor Kershaw. "For in-

held in open prisons. I've made that view known to the Prison Service." The prisoners agree that personal relationships are what count: "What you want is someone with a bit of experience of life. You want kindhearted older men and women who

'The male officers are either embarrassed or frightened of women prisoners'

can sympathise with your situation

and bend the rules now and then." The women were acutely aware of officers' language and tone of voice; they resented the way the New Hall staff bawled out women's surnames. Language is a powerful indicator of an establishment's culture: the actors in ITV's Jailbirds

were shocked when they were taken hours of TV could achieve more than to HMP Winchester's women's unit to get a taste of prison life. "We turnwomen were 'feeding'!" says Debra Stephenson, who plays a lifer.

Jack Ellis played DI Muddiman his role as a prison officer much just learnt that something more challenging: "We had a prison has happened to her child." officer on set to advise us and I was shocked when she showed me how to jangle my keys in front of prisoners to wind them up. I also had to learn a swaggering walk – because you're authority, you're power. You can feel that power and it's destructive. I shout, 'Shut it!' on set and all the noise stops. It feels wonderful."

Chris Tchaikovsky and her staff at Women in Prison have been advising the ITV scriptwriters on language and storylines, and she is delighted that so much TV coverage will bring the issue of women's imprisonment into everyone's living room. "Now viewers will see the reality of prison life," she says. "Five

all our 15 years of campaigning. The institution of prison is brutalising, ed up at lunchtime and were told the but it's easy for us to criticise the just learnt that something awful hanging in her cell at New Hall.

> The officers agreed that the prison officer's job has moved a long way from the old turnkey's and is far more demanding. But entry qualifications are still low. A 20-year-old with five GCSE passes can be earning up to £17,000 a year after just 11 weeks of training, while a graduate entrant on the fast-track promotion a prison, earning up to £31,000, within five years of leaving university.

At the Prison Service Conference in Harrogate last month, the outgoing director-general, Richard Tilt, launched the new Vision mission officers to fulfil the Service's twin Press, Winchester

aims - to protect the public and to deliver constructive regimes - while dealing fairly, openly and humanely with prisoners. But will these lofty staff. Control and care just don't go aims prove robust enough to turn the together very well and any amount screws and make real changes to of training won't help if an officer has prison life? Only 10 days ago 22-yearin Prime Suspect but he is finding to turn the key on a woman who's old Theresa Lohinski was found

Chris Terrill accepts that it will take time to break down the "nick culture". "I've done a lot of police films and you do find policemen who've joined up because they think they're going to get good fights. Of course you're still going to get those people joining the prison service, but the counter-error is only to look at the thugs. There are plenty of prison scheme could be deputy governor of officers who are going against the grain to try and change things."

Invisible Women: What's wrong with Women's Prisons', and 'Going Straight: After Crime and Punishment, by Angela Devlin, statement, setting out guidelines for are published by Waterside

The college that ate my brain

Exams, essays, more exams... everyone's listless, bar lovestruck Alistair. By Cayte Williams

THIS STUDENT

Life

SPRING TERM,

WEEK 10 AT THE

MANCHESTER

STUDENT HOUSE

LAN

studying

DANI

studying

THEY'RE HALFWAY through the second year, and the students are suffering from mid-course lethargy. The exams they took at the beginning of the year are over but now they're supposed to be preparing for the next job lot in May. Even self-improvement

disciple Ian has had enough. "I'm so far behind just because I'm being lazy," he sighs. "I've missed a few lectures, and I've got essays and a dissertation to hand in." To him, education is just one great big treadmill and he wants to get off. "College is eating away at my brain. I'm sick of reading and doing essays. I want to experience real life. I'm doing the same thing over and over, reading textbooks and taking exams. I'm taking a year out next year, because if I go into my third year like I feel now I'll get a bad grade."

Still, he's remaining optimistic about the quality of life when he graduates. When I finish college and

take a full-time job, it'll be one which keeps me entertained all the time." he says emphatically. "I've got friends who say as long as they've got tons of money, they don't care how bored they are. But I'm never going to have a boring career that pays well, because I could be doing that for the rest of my life. I'd rather do a bar job.

Even Robbie, who wants to make his fortune in the City, is getting a bit weary of ambition. "I'm halfway through my course and exams are looming again,



RACHAEL studying Art History

studying

studying





studying



ROSIE studying

LEONA

was studying

Maths

he explains. "What keeps

me going is knowing that if

I don't do the work now I'll

Rosie, the hardest-working

girl in the house, can't even

mornings. "I don't want to

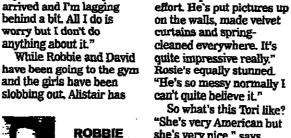
think about exams, but I've

got them in 10 weeks," she

says. "All these essays have

be in trouble later." And

get out of bed in the



"She's very American but she's very nice," says Leona. "When we met her on Saturday, we all just stared at her because of her accent."

been getting exercise re-

future might not look great

vamping his room. The

marvellous. Alistair is in

love, and it shows in his

decor. "You should see his

room," laughs Leona. "His

girlfriend, Tori, came over

from the States last Friday

and he's put in a lot of

but the present is

Alistair's been taking Tori on a whirlwind trip around Britain, ending up with a trip to London to see West Side Story and a final romantic weekend in Manchester - hence the velvet curtains. He says cheerfully, "T've been making a love nest".

THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

37. CEEFAX BY ANDREW MUELLER

THE RECENT furore about the rescheduling of News at Ten is indicative of a spectacular failure by commentators to understand that it no longer really matters what time the daily television news bulletin goes out. Ceefax, and its equivalent services, like Teletext and Skytext, are now prevalent, will become ubiquitous, and mean that we can have the news whenever we feel like it. It is a pretty safe bet that for most Britons, the first they heard of the death of Princess Diana was not the grave, stentorian baritone of a BBC announcer, but a digitised headline on their television screen, glimpsed through the fog of a Sunday

morning hangover. When we want to know what's going on in the world, the BBC's Ceefax has become our first port of call, its three-digit codes now as swift and sure within us as reflexes (101 for news, 302 for football, 340 for cricket, 400 for weather, 600 for television listings). As an information source, Ceefax is faster than radio, quicker to the point than print, and far less hassle than the Internet. Uniquely among the media, it tells us what we want to know, whenever we want to know it. And it does subtitles - invaluable during Eurovision, and on the frequent occasions that the NEEDLES Councils urged to clean-up 163 ENGINES Compaign to halt fire cuts 164 CEESE Vote to decide future of pair 165 COMMON Access charges for residents 166 NOISE Laws urged for to bring peace 167 INCHAM Sir Bernard released on bail 168

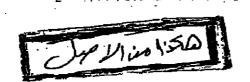
Ceefax: a sort of Internet for idiots

comes unbearable to listen to. Granted, Ceefax's news coverage lacks a certain depth, but as a bluffer's guide to the events of the day, it's unbeatable. The unapplauded editors behind Ceefax's screens are capable of laconic reductivism that verges on haiku. They condense the most perplexing intricacies of stories concerning politics, economics, finance and sport - and the occasional skateboarding dog - into di-

gestibly terse 80-word grabs. However, the real joys of Ceetax and Teletext are to be found among their more obscure codes. Teletext's news and sport phone polls (326 and 188 respectively) are always a thought-provoking means of keeping oneself amused during dialogue on Brookside be- thought they most provoke is over on the screen.

"Who are the 4,505 people who not only care whether or not Camilla Parker Bowles goes to Prince Edward's wedding, but care enough to spend 12p on phoning in their opinion, and what steps can be taken to avoid them?". Ceefax and Channel 4's Teletext also offer pages trespectively. The Vibe at 561 and The Void at 4821 that allow self-righteous adolescents to defend their tastes in pop music.

Ceefax is a glorious sedentary pleasure, a sort of Internet for idiots that manages the cherishable combination of being relaxing and addictive. The modern world offers lew exercises as calming as listening to soothing music on a Saturday afternoon while watching a commercial break, even if the the football scores silently tick



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AMERICAN LANGUAGES

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How Handel got his groove back

Composers' reputations rise and fall, but few have enjoyed such a boom as that of George Frideric Handel. Audiences now flock to operas thought unstageable 20 years ago. By Jonathan Keates

t is spring, or as near as dammit, spite floods in Yorkshire and frosts everywhere else, and here comes another London Handel Festival. The Programme of oratorio, cantatas and concertos at St George's Hanover Square, where the composer was once churchwarden, is balanced by performances at the Royal College of Music's Britten Theatre of his rarely-heard opera, *Lotorio*.

A tale of dynastic skulduggery in early medieval Italy, it includes a stupendous coup de théatre in which the scheming Queen Matilde forces hapless Prince Adelaide to choose between marrying her dim, weedy son Idelberto or else committing suicide. Matilde, providing for every contingency, has brought with her a dagger and a poisoned cup. Choosing the latter, Adelaide prepares to drink, when, to both women's astonishment, Idelberto rushes in, brandishing a sword and threatening to kill himself if she so much as touches a drop,

Not so very long ago, when the London Handel Festival began, a month-long concert series almost entirely devoted to the composer's music, and including a professional production of a minor stage work which flopped at its first performance, would have looked very much like special pleading. Since the 19th century, when extra trains were laid on for Londoners flocking to the Crystal Palace to hear his oratorios performed by mass choirs and monster orchestras, Handel's reputation had taken a nosedive. For most of the musical public, whether in Britain or abroad, his image was little better than that of a facile tunesmith with the good luck to have written Messiah and the Water Music - and the misfortune to have been born in the same year as JS Bach.

Musical orthodoxy decreed that the inevitable compare and contrast exercise between the two composers always worked to Handel's disadvantage. Bach emerged as the model scholar, who got everything right because he worked it out neatly in advance. Handel was the naughty boy, slapdash, half-hearted, cutting corners and cheating off others. It never seems to have struck those making this ultimately pointtinct creative personalities, writing for vastly differing audiences. To a lot of people who ought to know better, one German Baroque composer in a big white wig looks very like another.

By the 1985 tercentenary commemoration of his birth. Handel had become a

Iceberg syndrome, in which only a faction of an artist's best work is visible above the waterline of neglect. The great dramatic oratorios, works like Athalia, Solomon and Belshazzar, hung on here and there, though their occasional performances at the Proms or the Queen Elizabeth Hall were risk ventures, "box office poison" in concert-promoter speak. How, in any case, was it possible to make them work under the impacted dust of Victorian evangelical piety, and memories of pneumatic contraltos in flowered hats gargling into the rafters of some provincial Corn Exchange?

An even worse fate had overtaken Handel's operas. Conventional wisdom (aka cultural indolence and incuriosity) long ago decided that these were resistant to any serious presentation on a contemporary stage. The standard Baroque aria form, with its reprise of the opening material

Singers love Handel for his gift for flattering even the most mediocre voice so as to burnish it with star quality

after a middle section in a different key was felt to be a strain both on dramatic credibility and on an audience's ability to stay awake. Long passages of harpsichord- accompanied recitative might be tolerable in Mozart, but as employed by Handel they were simply an effective reminder of the ways in which opera, with the aid of a little Wagnerian Vorsprung durch Technik, had streamlined itself since his day. The plots, with their female warriors.

magic islands and long-lost brothers identified by strawberry marks, were fatuous. happening in a classical never-never land inhabited by people whose names, Bradamante, Cleofide, Polinesso, sounded like Formula One racing cars or different types of pasta sauce. There were no choruses worth speaking of and bardly any ensembles, while the orchestra was just a mimsy little combo of fiddles and oboes. Fis comparison that the two men were dis-nally, since the male principals, at the operas' earliest performances, had mostly been Italian eunuchs, how could we possibly do these works justice? As one Handel scholar so neatly put it, "nowadays there is no humane answer to the castrato problem."

Now and then, an enterprising revival

sensical such ideas of Handel opera actually were. A Decca recording of Alcino, made in 1962 as a vehicle for Joan Sutherland, quickly became a classic for its thrilling vocal realisation, of the opera's eroticism and emotional ambivalence. Every autumn at Sadler's Wells the Handel Opera Society used to feature selected stage works, whose am-dram milk-bottle-tops-and-string production val-ues were offset by a line-up of superb soloists. Down at the Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon, meanwhile, the husband-andwife team Alan and Frances Kitching made Handelian operatic miracles happen on an even tinier stage and the proverbial shoestring budget, with the help of an undergraduate band in the pit and monsters played by local schoolkids. If it wasn't exactly the King's Theatre Haymarket, where many of the operas received their premières with stellar casts and an orchestra of international virtuosi, we were grateful, all the same, for a chance to hear

How did this all change "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye", as the bass soloist famously thunders in Messiah? Which particular spot in the late-20th century Zeitgeist did Handel succeed in hitting during those 1985 tercentennial junketings, to get himself out of the reference books and back on the stage where he belongs? The revival of authentic performance practice in Baroque music undoubtedly helped, revealing that with the more grainy, physical sound of a small ensemble of period instruments, alert to heady rhythms and keen phrasing, Handel's notes can make your hair stand on end. As if to prove the point, labels like Harmonia Mundi, L'Oiseau Lyre and Hyperion began pampering us with works such as Joshuo, Giustino and the incidental music to Smollert's lost play Alceste, not exactly Desert Island essentials but welcome nonetheless

Handel, meanwhile, has become a class act in the world's major opera houses, so much so indeed that certain pieces like Giulio Cesare in Egitto and Ariodonte are fast achieving standard status in the international repertoire. Opera North is limbering up for Radamisto, 1720s Lonwith Lesley Garrett. It's at Glyndebourne, however, where the spectacular breakthrough has been made in winning new audiences for Handel. Theodora, not written for the theatre and with more meditation than confrontation, was the surprise winclassic victim of what might be called the showed bow bogus or else purely non-ner of the 1996 season, and last year's 1930s



Hollywood-style Rodelinda had its impact sharpened by the star countertenor Andreas Scholl and the designer glamour of Anna Caterina Antonacci in the title role. Audiences in Edinburgh and London, revelling in the wayward inspirations of choreographer Mark Morris's L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato, found themselves captivated as much by the unfamiliar score's kaleidoscopic tone-painting as by the beauty of the dance itself,

Oh, and let's not forget My Night With Handel, a cheekily brilliant C4 film by Alex Marengo and Debra Hauer, setting a collage of hit numbers against backdrops of don's hit show, ENO has a new production Soho nightlife and a Richard Rogers-Norof Semele and there's talk of an Agrippina man Foster Londonscape in which the music seemed perfectly at home. Suddenly Handel is everywhere, with or without the white wig. Even TV commercials feature snatches of Zadok the Priest and the Opus 3 concerti Grossi. So what explains our ardent embrace of the composer we formerly either spurned or ignored?

for coaxing and flattering even the most mediocre voice so as to burnish it with genuine star quality. Audiences entering the opera home with preconceived ideas as to the duliness of da capo arias cave in, overwhelmed by the unforgettable potency of his melodic lines. Cutting-edge directors like David Alden and Peter Sellars speak with such fervour about Handel as a theatre animal that the ink seems scarcely dry on his scores. As for the oratorios, the punters are flocking back, without their prayerbooks and dog-collars, and more passionate than those Victorians at Crystal Palace, a veritable soccer crowd indeed, if a recent Proms performance of Deborch is anything to go by.

Singers have always loved Handel be-

cause of his gift, noted by contemporaries,

It was Mozart, his admirer and conscious imitator, who spoke of Handel's mance of Belshazzar. "You're standing on unique gift for achieving great effects through simple means, and it's Mozart says "Go on, jump!" - Handel says "Let's whom he foreshadows in the range of his do dinner instead."

moods and sheer formal versatility. Some writers on music like to call him "Shakespearean", because of the massive array of human emotions and character types his imagination unfolds.

A cynic might say that Handel is popular again because his works, with their tiny forces, are so attractively cheap to perform in these cost-cutting times. Audience reaction, surprised and enchanted, suggests there's rather more to it than this. Together with the sophistication and elegance we expect from a man who was a connoisseur of fine paintings and good wine, there's a wisdom and humanity whose grounding in direct personal experience enfolds us all. A friend of mine, mad for the late Ro-

mantic big symphony sound, summed up the effect after sitting through a perforthe edge of a cliff, ready to end it all. Mahler

Cura conducts an experiment

PENNED IN our seats, we expect conductors to act out musical rapture on our behalf. but to sing it as well? That's another matter Last Thursday, José Cura introduced us to the unusual phenomenon of the Singing Conductor.

The world knows Cura as an manage? operatic tenor of distinction impetuous perhaps, but the he reminds us that he came to singing only after studying conducting and composition. Now the success of his vocal apparatus is allowing him to

10. 10.

OPERA JOSE CURA/ PHILHARMONIA ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

the vocal part. How would he

sensible precaution of working with the Philharmonia, an orchestra at the top of its game and with a leader, Christopher include his fantasy of being a conducting experience in his conductor, while also taking own right. Verdi and Puccini

hold any fear for this worldclass outfit. And if the con- in the overture, and it was ductor chooses to spend much only with Don Alvaro's Scene of the evening with his back to the players? That can be

accommodated. Well, without a baton and he gestured for the musicians mostly without a score, for a to sit, they did - in perfect cogenuine article. In interviews, start. He had taken the ordination. A good start. Verdi occupied the evening's first half, beginning with the overture to La Forza del Destino, as dramatic an opening as any. Warren-Green, who has Cura's conducting relied on small, contained gestures, and the slow passages almost

However, there's no singing and Romance from La Forza that we got to the crunch. Cura was still facing the players as Cura passed the first test. As he began to sing, but then he turned slowly to deliver us the full voice. The effect, though, was ever so slightly absurd, the need to maintain the beat with both arms making him look somewhat like a large bird attempting to achieve flight

This proved a recurring visual distraction – and a dramatic distortion - with the

might not be home territory, ground to a halt; but that might added problem that any on the platform, got a little help but few parts of the repertoire be an interpretative view. produced an equivalent vocal emphasis that disrupted the vocal contour, most dam-

> of Simon Boccanegra. Nevertheless, Cura's Verdi, and more particularly his Puccini and Leoncavallo ("Vesti la giubba", what else?) from the second half, remained authentic, and although the vocal edge sometimes blurred, he curbed his tendency, born of enthusiasm, to deliver too much, too loud. If one had the impression that Cura's conducting, some-

times achieved from odd places

after all, one of the concert-master's functions.

Cura's love of his audience agingly in the free-flowing line and its adulation does not contradict his seriousness of purpose. This was an interesting, even amusing little experiment - not an unmitigated success, but not a disaster either. I hope that in future he will let someone else conduct so that we get more of the Cura we want. His conducting is perhaps unexceptionable, but also unexceptional. The voice, though, remains special.

Gardener's question time

AYRSHIRE, THE home base of Borderline Theatre, may be renowned for its bacon, but there's rather too much ham being served in the British première of Kevin's Bed. A major hit at Dublin's Abbey Theatre last year, Bernard Farrell's comedy (its action here transposed from Ireland to Glasgow) follows a middleclass Catholic family from the 1970s to 1999, via the parents' silver and golden anniversary celebrations.

The endlessly dithering Kevin has dropped out from training to be a priest in Rome but parental hopes are briefly revived by the arrival of a young Italian nun come to talk Kevin round. Hopes are then dashed as it transpires that celibacy was the hurdle at which his vocation came a cropper.

25 years on, Kevin is as ineffectual as ever. His shotgun bride. Maria, has become the kind of termagant who surely wouldn't have survived that long, and this time it's his brother John slinking home in disgrace to face the music.

All in all, it's mediocre sitcom meets lukewarm farce, the characters barely developed beyond plot-ciphers and most of the performances correquarter-century's social change, but he never digs deep enough, into either his charac- bittersweet flavour. ters and their relationships, or the larger world and his theme

ly than much of the humour. It's a very different story with the Scottish premiere of Iain Heggie's amorous merry- Mar

resonates no more successful-

THEATRE KEVIN'S BED/AN GIVES ADVICE CITIZENS THEATRE

GLASGOW/ ROYAL LYCEUM **EDINBURGH** go-round, first produced at

Manchester's Royal Exchange in 1995, which positively bristles with humane yet penetrating insight and black-edged wit. Fortysom-thing Bella attempts to cultivate the back green of a Glasgow tenement block of a Sunday morning but her would-be solitude is continually interrupted by demands from strangers, acquaintances, ex- and current lovers all seeking her counsel, most of which is ignored. Pheromones fly thick and fast as Bella's eye goes roving in response to her younger lover's infidelity, in amongst sundry other lustful encounters over her potting compost.

Heggie's mode is half manically heightened naturalism, half playful symbolism. His quickfire dialogue is delivered with matching depth and spiky character detail by the cast, absorbingly headed by Jennifer's Black's mercurial Bella. In conspondingly overblown and con- trast to Borderline's heavytrived. Farrell's intention handed lightweight efforts, this appears to be to investigate a is comedy of real heart and substance, its romance and humour only enriched by their

SUE WILSON

Kevin's Bed', (0141-429 0022) to 27 Mar, on tour to 17 Apr. An Erperienced Woman Gives Advice', (0131-248 4848) to 27

The long journey Homer

YOU'LL FIND no Cyclops in tholas Maw's Odyssey, yet its confrontations are every bit as gripping. No Nausicaa, though many a "long-limbed melody". No Circe, but transformation, magic and en- rative is internal, musical, dechantment galore. No Sirens, but a skein of bewitching tunes that allure, just as Maw's Scenes and Arias delighted ing for woodwind and brass in any recent British score. And a 44-bar melody, sumptuously that would have had any selfering on the edge of Nirvana.

CLASSICAL CBSO/RATTLE

SYMPHONY HALL BIRMINGHAM

liberately unprogrammatic, yet never tires, but flows, capers and switches mood, fills with apprehension and mesprominers almost four decades merises as did the hexameters ago. No wrangling suitors, but of yore. From the extraordisome of the most virulent writ- narily dark introduction, an eerie Nibelheim whence tympani and gong, then shadowy alloyed wisdom and intensity, divisi double basses, bassoons, recapitulated in inverted form a trio of celli, then woodwind near the end by the City of chorus well up, you sense this sbirmingham Symphony Or-chestra strings ('like an old one There is a powerful sense friend," as Simon Rattle put it), of anticipation as lower strings well up under horn chords, and respecting Lotus-Eater hov- an increasing energy and urgency pervades the whole or-Maw's Odyssey isn't chestra It wells up, almost Homer's, but he has the gifts puzzled, just as at the close, Part I gradually acquires a feel-of a rhapsode of old. His narmagically, it will die down. And ing of freedom; subtle contrasts

it is this ebb and flow of of light and intensity beneath Hall performance, just as he achieved on the EMI recordpected cult status either side of the Atlantic.

Inspired, perhaps, by the eerie grandfather clock "Time chord", with which Maw signposts the sections, Rattle brought the 90-minute piece in and the CBSO gave him of its fully varied sound worlds: the piece bristles with exquisite just the inventive foreground, but the busily elaborate hinterland impresses. Tingling bells, busy clarinets, soft sneery brass and glimmers of oboe as Part I gradually acquires a feel-

Odyssey that Rattle handled so the violin solo interlude, soon excitingly in this Symphony eclipsed by angst-ridden trumpets and screaming woodwind. The sense of omen in the air at ing which has achieved unex- the start of the wondrously sustained half-hour slow section was palpable; curiously Peter Grimesian chords yield to an unnerving climax after another; the intermediate string fadedown, with whispers of nocturnal oboe and bassoon and dead on time. This was Rattle long-riding flute solo, was imon shining form, a reading of unviolins in the variations shades almost of the Grosse best. Maw conjures wonder- Fuge-ceding to violas over subliminal vibraphone, and the string opening, with added solo work; time and again, not trumpet, to Part 4, were as lucid as anything in the evening. After so much energising adventure, Odyssey's

could ask for.

eloquent subsiding provides a

homecoming as serene as one



RODERIC DUNNETT Nicholas Maw: the narrative of 'Odyssey' never tires

Like Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko abandoned figurative art. Unlike Pollock, he chose stillness over action. By Richard Ingleby

ast year, America's art-going public had a rare opportunity to see exhibitions by two of the country's most celebrated artists at the same time in the same city. For the month of November, Jackson Pollock at New York's Museum of Modern Art overlapped with Mark Rothko at the Whitney Museum of American Art – the two giants of American art face to face for one last bout. Such is the fragile condition of their paintings that shows on this scale of either artist's work are unlikely to be seen again, but for a few weeks they were back in the ring, slugging it out for the title of America's greatest 20th-century painter.

It was Pollock, apparently, whom the American people took to their hearts - queuing round the block to see his drips and daubs and spiashes, while the Rothko show was a quieter affair, in every way. The myth of Pollock as the live-fast, die-young, all-American hero has proved an enduring one, and rather more appealing than that of Rothko: the melancholic rabbi.

Both exhibitions have now arrived in Europe (Pollock at the Tate and Rothko at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris), from which distance it is rather easier to take an impartial view of their different achievements. The Pollock exhibition is an undoubtedly majestic and exciting event, but Rothko, too, emerges as a major figure and, setting aside what we know of the men, their work looks evenly matched.

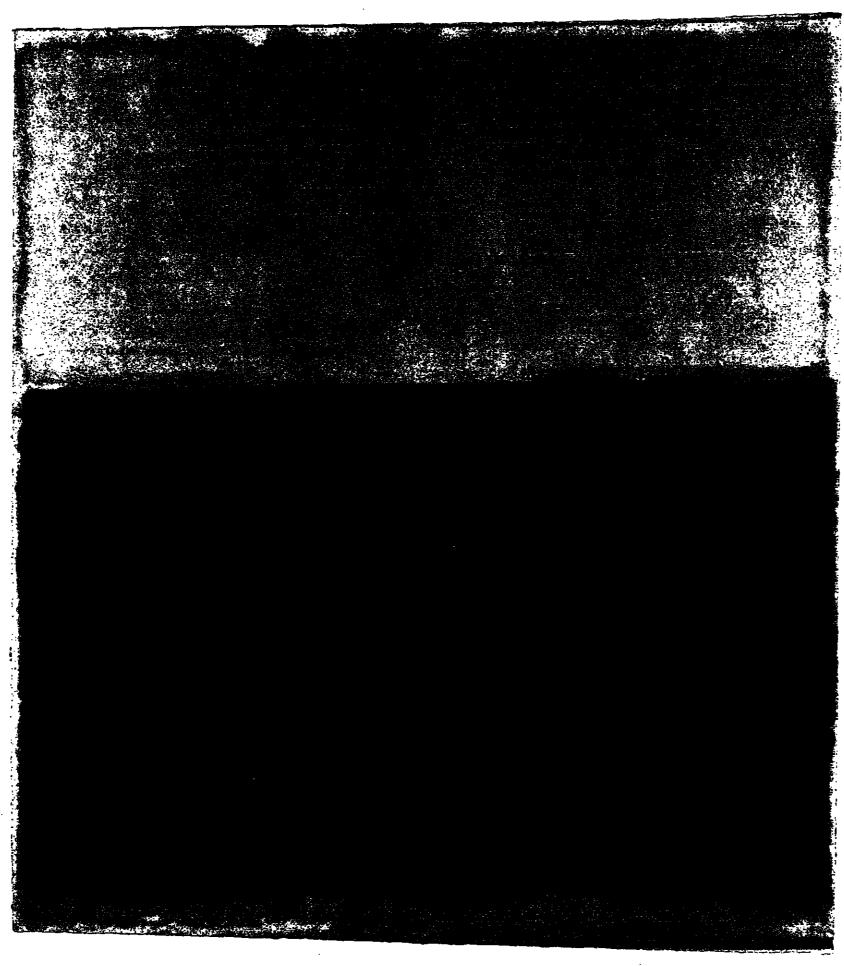
The Rothko show begins in 1935 with a group of works much influenced by his friend and neighbour, Milton Avery: low-key paintings of people in subways and on street corners; a gentle sort of urban realism painted in subtle tones of grey and blue and beige. The selection in Paris is truncated compared to the American showing, but the point is made that Rothko made a quiet, figurative start.

The most striking thing about Rothko's early work is how strongly he, like Pollock, came to be influenced by Picasso and Miro in the 1940s. The two Spaniards loom large over the decade - their work was widely exhibited in New York at the time and their presence deeply felt. Pollock felt Miró lightly and Picasso with conviction, with Rothko it was reverse.

Three "Untitled" paintings from 1940-1941 show Rothko's absorption of Picasso the Picasso of Guernica, with heads and body parts stacked in blocks and given a vaguely mythological look – but it was Miró who provided the strongest inspiration. Rothko wasn't ashamed to borrow from him directly in pictures such as Hierarchical Birds and most tellingly in Tentacles of Memory: a series of spidery black lines linking scratchy patches of red and blue, set against a background of greybrown horizontal bands.

Let's be clear about it. Rothko had lor since ceased to be a student: he was 42 when he painted Tentacles of Memory too old to be plagiarising so shamelessly, yet it was through these Miróesque paintings that he found a way forward. Common to all are background bands of colour and tone - horizontal divisions which clearly anticipate the forms of his classic style, waiting for the elimination of the loosely figurative shapes and swirls.

The rooms in Paris are organised chronologically to show a definite progression through these early works to the moment in 1947 when he abandoned the figure completely with the first of the pictures known as "Multiforms" - luminous fields of colour broken by floating shapes and soft-edged blocks. They are painted like watercolours, wet on wet, with thin layers



'Untitled', 1953: in Rothko's work, combinations which ought not to work become a kind of visual perfection

of colour bleeding at the edges. Gradually, the floating blocks became more ordered, stacked one on another in vertical piles and simplified until the pictures found the form that became Rothko's signature.

Ironically, the simpler the pictures became, the more complex their effect. They seem simultaneously empty and full: they draw the eye in and radiate light and colour out. These are the contradic-

tions at the heart of Rothko's paintings which provide such enduring mystery. On a basic level, the colours are breathtakingly beautiful and frequently work become a kind of visual perfection.

weightily about the painter's search for clarity: "the elimination of all obstacles between the painter and the idea, and between the idea and the observer". This surprising Combinations which ought not is all very well, but it ignores the unavoidable truth that for the spectatoryet, perversely, Rothko used to deay the if not for the maker - colour is the langimportance of colour in his work. He uage that they speak and which detpreferred the illusion that the paintings ermines their response. were about something deeper and spoke

Rothko knew this, of course, but he also

National Gallery of Art, Washington

knew that no two people will respond to a given colour or colour combination in quite the same way. Certain groupings can be relied upon - red tends to passion, blue and brown to melancholy - but the final mood belongs to the individual, not to the picture. That said, the artist had something very specific in mind for each of these pictures, defined by the arrangement of colour and shape, frequently with the weight of the picture bearing down from above. I'm not sure if there are degrees of success among these images; the forms hardly change from one to the next, though some move me more than others. Many of the most striking are those that seem tied to the natural world, a world of horizons and sunsets: an electric line of orange hinging land and sky in Untilled 1953 or a Turneresque vortex of stored light in Untitled (Yellow, Pink, Yellow on Light Pink) 1955.

The comparison to Turner isn't as wild as it might seem. "Pictures of nothing and very like" was William Hazlitt's criticism of Turner's late depictions of light and mist and it's as good a description of Rothke as I can think of. At the opening of the New York Museum of Modern Arts Turner show in 1966 Rothko was heard to joke "that. chap Turner learned a lot from me" and it was no accident that the Tate Gallery became the recipient of Rothko's Seagram murals in 1969, such was Rothko's pleasure in the idea of sharing a roof with Turner.

The murals were initially intended for, and commissioned by, the Four Seasons restaurant in New York's Seagram building, but, having eaten there one evening, Rothko changed his mind. Undeterred, he was increasingly drawn to working in series and to the idea that his paintings be grouped and seen together in a single room. The 18 works that he painted for a. chapel in Houston between 1964 and 1967 (better a chapel than a restaurant) are probably his greatest single achievement.

The Houston pictures aren't represented in the Paris show, yet the point is made that Rothko's palette darkened as the 1950s progressed, as rust purples turn to black in the Seagram Murals and blues to black in Houston. The progression from the yellows and oranges of the early decade to the total darkness of black on black, as it is presented here, seems inevitable.

Great claims have been made for Rothko's last series of paintings, the blackon-grey canvases painted in the spring of 1969 - seen by many as the last word of a tragic nihilist and the works which conclude this exhibition. They were intended as finished works (he held a party for the paintings to gauge the opinion of his peers), but I'm not so sure. They have none of his trademark finesse or necessary depth: the brushstrokes seem clumsy and the spatial arrangement unresolved. They are dark, certainly, but they have none of the intensity of the inky-black paintings made five years earlier.

Rothko's career was peppered with bouts of depression and inactivity - he was never, by all accounts, a very cheery person - yet even with all this blackness and the knowledge of his suicide in 1970, the final atmosphere of the Paris show is far from depressing. The overriding sense is contemplative and slightly sad, but it is a delicious sort of sadness

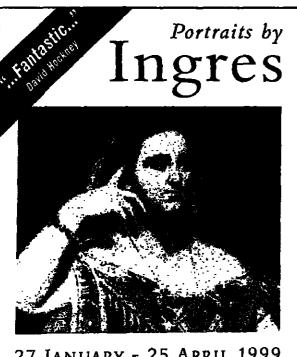
Much has been made over the years of the so-called "spiritual" quality of Rothko's : pictures and of their kinship to "religious experience". I'm not too keen on this sort of talk as such phrases rarely actually mean anything, but a roomful of Rothkos has an undeniably meditative mood. His paintings have an enveloping quality, each one like a world in itself, and to be surrounded by them prompts an unspecific ache of longing for something not quite grasped. The work demands participation: even now a lot of people claim to miss the point, but, in a sense, what you get from Rothko's work depends entirely on what you bring to it.

Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 11 avenue du Président Wilson, Paris.

ROBERT HANKS ON TV



'Births, Marriages and Deaths' was ultimately redeemed by its final scene: a barking mix of Sophocles and 'Macbeth'



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NATIONAL GALLERY

How to grow old rebelliously

Jean Dubuffet was teasing, shocking and painting with reckless abandon into his eighties. By Michael Glover

thought proper to maturity, quickly shed the joyous and reckless spontaneities of childhood. To find a painter who gives the lie to this old adage, a man who was painting with the reckless abandon of a child at the age of 84, you need to visit the Waddington Galleries on Cork Street, where a dozen late paintings by Jean Dubuffet, all age of 80, are on show.

was among the most richly paradoxical and iconoclastic 1894, he developed a passion for canvases show the influences of Cézanne, Masson, Suzanne Valadon and others - but by the 1940s, he saw it as his mission to turn his back on everything fingers. He made paintings that might be regarded as his own cultural inheritance, and to surfaces. He made tumultuous create a language of signs en- and noisily crowded paintings tirely his own. This language out of much smaller paintings, overturned almost every all cut up and mounted in great known rule about perspective, cycles of collage - such as a representation and figuration. His would be a language which would shock, puzzle, tease, dis-

IT HAS often been said that concert and rebel with as much adults, in learning the inhibitions scratchy discordance as his hand and brain could muster between them. The great master of art brut was born.

His art passed through many phases, each of which has been documented with painstakingly passionate accuracy at the Fondation Dubuffet in Paris (located in an sion on the Left Bank, at 137, executed after he reached the rue de Sevres; open to the general public on most days). The French painter, sculptor Dubuffet worked with almost and engraver Jean Dubuffet anything, and on almost any material that happened to come to hand: oils on canvas, artistic spirits of the century. oils on paper, acrylic on paper Born into a prosperous family or canvas; with watercolour, of Le Havre wine merchants in pen, ink; on bits of cardboard; on newsprint, or on scraps of painting early on - his earliest paper torn from some school exercise book; in notebooks.

No scrap of paper, no unembellished surface, was safe from his rapacious, frenzied with sand rubbed into their wonderful series called Theatre of Memory (1975-1979). A little earlier, during the 1960s, Dubuf-



fet discovered the wonders of cles of monumental sculptures, polystyrene, how it could be cut, shaped and decorated at great speed - he was always known for his speed of execution. How blocky and monumental it seemed to be when first enhow marvellously light and speedily workable in actuality!

So like – and so unlike – stone. The shaping of polystyrene

which can now be seen in public spaces around the world.

But by the end of the 1970s, and in part due to ill health and back problems, he had returned to painting and drawing, countered by the eye! And yet and was working on a much smaller scale altogether. Dubuffet, being a Frenchman, was a great intellectual systematiser, and he tended to led directly to the creation of cy-create works in series, each

with its own resonantly suggestive name. The small-scale

canvases on display at Waddington belong to three late series of acrylics, often painted on paper and mounted on canvas, called Mires, Sites Aleatoires and Non-Lieux. Where - or what exactly - are

these "non-places" to which Dubuffet makes allusion in some of these frenzied and via reference to what he calls the usual intellectual opposition between existence and the idex of nothingness, and goes on to remind us that this notion of nothingness corresponds to zero in mathematics, which is, of course, a median point between

gnomic note to the series makes

negative and positive numbers. The mechanisms of the universe itself, he argues, might also be said to consist of negative forces, which are in perpetual combat with their positive counterparts, "And I for one would be quite ready to be heve," he concludes, "that the distinction we make between positive and negative is entirely illusory..." Horn

An illusory gout of smoke rises into the air at this point he was a heavy smoker all his life - and we nod our heads sage ly at these mature-sounding. intellectualising words, wondering whether he has half explained everything or wholly explained nothing. Meanwhile. the frenzied, bald old child scribbles exuberantly on, cocking his cultural snooks, and de-

brant late paintings? His own Fri 10-5.30; Sat 10-1 until 1 April



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THE TUESDAY REVIEW The Independent to Manh 1999

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HEALTH

The body snatcher

It's spread by blood-sucking ticks and can lead to facial paralysis, meningitis and arthritis but, as Angela Howard found out, GPs are often slow to diagnose Lyme disease

t sounds like the plot of a science-fiction novel, a tiny mystery insect injects an alien organism into the body which causes havoc. Far fetched, you might think, but it happened to me. Last summer I was finding it an effort to keep up the usual momentum of family life with two children, Sasha, who was then eight and Tamzin, who we adopted from China, 14 months old. I tired easily and struggled to remember things. At the end of July, I noticed some red circles on my right upper arm; there was a white bump in the centre and the circles grew bigger and redder, roughly

A week later, an American friend recognised my circles from posters displayed in a doctor's surgery on the east coast of America. She told me I could have "Lyme disease" and urged me to have a blood test.

five inches by four inches. My husband

and I shrugged it off as nothing to

worry about.

The next day I went to my local GP's surgery. First I was told that we don't get Lyme disease in this country and then that you could get it, but only in the New Forest. As I hadn't been to the New Forest and this was Berkshire, the doctor said it was unlikely to be Lyme disease and suggested I came back the following week if the circles got bigger. After imuch insistence, the doctor agreed to give me a blood test to eliminate the possibility of Lyme disease.

The summer holidays were in full swing and all the time I felt something was not quite right. My memory was muddled, my muscles and joints ached, I had blinding headaches, acute hearing, hot flushes, jumpy vision as well as tingling down one side of my body. I felt weepy; my appetite had long gone, I was losing weight and I had diarrhoea and thrush. But eventually the mysterious red circles on my arm disappeared, so I thought there was no need to panic.

In August my doctor rang. My blood test was positive. I had Lyme disease, "whatever that is". The doctor prescribed a 10-day course of the antibiotic oxytetracycline.

Then began the search for more in-14. My friend Sally, who is a doctor, soon tor had been baffled by her symptoms sent me a mile-long fax of reports on the disease, found on the Internet. They were very detailed and recommended antibiotics for four to six It wasn't until a laboratory assistant weeks. She advised me to eat yoghurt from the New Forest decided to test and take two acidophilus capsules for Lyme that they discovered what after meals, use Canesten against thrush, and take evening primrose capsules and multivitamins to counteract the effects of the antibiotics.

Lyme disease is spread by ticks which transmit a bacterium called Borrelia burgdorferi. Before they bite, the ticks inject an anaesthetic so you don't know you have been bitten and, although they may be attached for 24 hours, they're easy to miss because they are as tiny as poppy seeds.

I couldn't imagine how I had come into contact with it: I have a fear of nakes so never walk through long ss, moorland, bracken or woodland. licks are prevalent in areas where deer are common, as the tick feeds on the deer which can be infected with Borrelia burgdorferi. The tick subsequently passes on the organism when it feeds again on its nearest host which could be human, sheep, rabbit, horse, cat or dog.

I showed my doctor the reports and he increased my antibiotics to four weeks. Then I tracked down a doctor who had diagnosed Lyme disease locally, he told me that he believed



Angela Howard realised she was ill when she began to tire quickly looking after her daughters, Tamzin and Sasha

many cases went undiagnosed use doctors didn't know what to: look for And this was someth beginning to discover for myself as I heard from other sufferers. I rang a woman who lives nearby and who had had Lyme three w but treated her for shingles. Eventually one side of her face had become paralysed, and she was given steroids. was wrong with her.

 Lyme disease was named after Old Lyme in Connecticut in the United States, where a cluster of cases was diagnosed in 1974. Early English settlers named Old Lyme after Lyme Regis in Dorset, and it is possible that they brought the ticks and the disease with their livestock to the New World.

Only 30 per cent of ticks are said to carry Borrelia burgdorferi in this country, so not all tick bites will lead to Lyme disease. In 1997 the Public Health Laboratory Service reported 180 cases of Lyme disease in England and Wales, and 160 in 1998. In the US there were 12.801 cases in 1997. Americans can take heart; SmithKline Beecham has been working on a vaccine for the disease and a slightly different version of the product is being prepared for Europe, where different strains of the disease are prevalent.

Some sufferers outside the US have found it hard to be taken seriously by the medical profession - even if they are members of it. A Finnish psychiatrist, Dr Vartiovaara, contracted Lyme disease in 1987, while attending



Deer have ticks which carry Lyme disease

a conference in Canada. Ironically, he found a blood-gorged tick in an ashtray in his room one morning and took a photograph of it, then thought no more about it. Three weeks later his joints ached and his eyesight deteriorated. His medical colleagues susnected brain cancer or multiple sclerosis. After 16 months he was hardly able to drive a car, type, or work a full day. He could only walk with or-thopaedic shoes, keeping close to the walls so he did not fall down.

Soon after this the hospital said there was nothing they could or would do for him. He dictated a farewell letter to a colleague in America who had attended the same conference in Canada. She replied suggesting that he must have Lyme disease and sent him reports about it. After treatment

in both the US and Finland, Dr Vartiovaara made slow progress, but in 1992 at the age of 45 he became the first person in Finland to be pensioned off on the basis of Lyme disease. After six years of treatment the organism was found to be still alive in

his body. He says he is now an invalid with a totally unknown prognosis. "I think of the many Lyme patients who remain undiagnosed ... there must be many who never get the tests. They must suffer enormously, running from doctor to doctor seeking help in vain. One of the worst insults is to be labelled a chronic complainer. The point is that if one gets the right diagnosis early, it is very simple to treat."

From my own experience, GPs should be made fully aware of the

symptoms and treatment for Lyme disease. If a pattern nas "flu symptoms" is may upt in fact be flu test could be Lyme disease. If left untreated complications such as facial paralysis, meningitis, arthritis, carditis and en-

It's a long journey back to health for the sufferer of Lyme disease, and an endless one for those who don't realise they have been infected until years later. A year on, it is a relief that my limb- and joint-pains have almost gone and I am learning to live with the fatigue. I feel lucky to have caught the disease relatively early, and the oral antibiotics seem to have killed the organism.

I now view my garden and the great outdoors with suspicion. I am proof that you don't just catch Lyme from areas such as the New Forest, Scotland or Richmond Park. These ticks, which look like tiny spiders, are everywhere - even in towns and cities and can even be passed on to humans by their pets.

From March, when the ticks start to breed, I shall take great care to check that I haven't attracted any tiny tick companions by keeping my skin covered, using insect repellent and checking my family's clothes and skin for ticks when returning indoors.

Although I never saw my tick, if you do find one embedded in your skin it is wisest to cover it with petroleum jelly or suntan cream to suffocate it. Gently remove it with tweezers by grasping it as close to its mouth as possible and lifting carefully with a twisting motion. Make sure the tick is completely removed, then apply antiseptic.

Jury is out on screening

THERE ARE roughly 30,000 medical journals published around the world. An assiduous medical reporter who trawled even 1 per cent of these for unusual or controversial findings could therefore fill severa newspaper pages.

However, the standards set by journal editors vary and many are little different from vanity publishers. There are a couple of dozen with a rigorous peer review process and a reputation that give them clout on the medical world stage. It is safe to say that the Swedish journal Lakartidningen is not one of them.

In more than a decade of medical reporting I do not recall seeing this journal until last week when a study it published appeared in most British national newspapers. It was an analysis of the breastscreening programme introduced in Sweden in the late Eighties which showed that over 10 years there had been no significant fall in deaths

from breast cancer. If confirmed, this is important. Britain based its breast-screening on the Swedish model. We spend £34m a year checking every woman aged 50-64 every three years for signs of breast cancer. Are we wasting our money and could we save more lives by improving treatment for breast cancer sufferers?

Worse, in the Swedish study more than 100,000 women had received a false positive diagnosis - a suspicious mammogram, causing anxiety and distress, which turned out later to be nothing serious. In the course of this, 16,000 biopsies (samples of tissue taken from their breasts) remove a lump – or in some cases the whole breast which turned out to be healthy. This is a heavy price to pay even for a successful programme and if no lives are being saved then it is unacceptable.

But the Swedish journal, Lakartidningen is little known. So how did the study it published reach the British press? A news report of the study appeared in the "News" section of the British Medical Journal, which functions like a newspaper for doctors, alerting them to developments of interest in the medical world but without subjecting them to the peer-review applied to the journal's original papers. Health reporters scan these pages but



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somehow, we all missed the Swedish study reported in the March 6 edition of the BMJ until the medical editor of the Darly Mark who had been on holiday, spotted it the following week. Her front-page story last week ran under the headline "Breast screening 'doesn't prevent deaths'''.

The story triggered a furious reaction from the **National Breast Screening** Service. Its press office. fearing a mass defection by women, called news organisations on Thursday morning to alert them to a highly critical letter posted on the BMJ's website. It was from Mans Rosen. deputy director general of the National Board of Health and Welfare in Stockholm which said the Swedish research would not have passed the peer review process for the BMJ or "other distinguished journals". It added that the board had no intention of changing its advice on breast screening "based on such a defective study".

So where does this leave women? The UK breast screening service maintains that at least 1,000 lives a year are being saved although it admits that it will be a year or two more before definitive evidence of this is available. The Swedish researchers maintained the clinical trials of screening, which suggested up to 30 per cent of deaths could be prevented, and the lack of success of the programme reflected the difficulty in spreading a technique nationwide.

This is what lies at the heart of this issue. An idea may work when pioneered in a few centres by highly motivated enthusiasts with exceptional skills. But when run nationally it is only as good as its weakest link. At the moment, breast screening appears to be one of the better programmes and women aged over 50 would be advised to attend for a regular check. But no one can say for certain that it is working until those definitive figures are in.

Tehties In Vichael Glove

The elusive quest for a trouble-free tan

HAVE been wondering whether the tablets one reads about in some aeroplane magazines which are said to be an "easy and safe way to tan naturally are, in fact, easy and safe. How do they work, and, if they are so safe, why aren't they promoted more widely?

Most of the tablets that are sold to promote tanning contain an amino acid called L-tyrosine. Tyrosine is involved in the production of melanin, the pigment that colours human skin. The theory is that if you take some extra tyrosine, your body will tan more quickly. However, there is no evidence that taking tyrosine does in fact make you tan more easily, and it will certainly not create a tan in the absence of sunlight. So although it may be easy, and it may be safe, it is unlikely to have any effect on your tan. Some years ago the

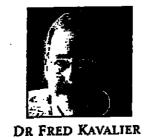
American government banned a

tanning product containing canthaxanthin (also known as Food Orange 8), on the grounds that it was unsafe.

Companies that sell tanning tablets avoid drug safety regulations because their products are classified as nutritional supplements. Don't waste your money.

I AM a 50-year-old man and have had fairly persistent itching between the buttocks around the outside of the anus for several years. When I last consulted my GP his recommendation was to wear loose cotton boxer shorts and to keep the area as dry as possible. This has had no effect whatsoever. It would be no cliché to say that something to reduce the itching would be a relief. Itchy bottoms, which some doctors like to glorify with the name "pruritis ani," can be extremely

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



uncomfortable and embarrassing. If you do not have piles (which can be itchy) and you do not have threadworms (which look like fine strands of wriggling white cotton), you should use a soothing antiinflammatory cream around your anus. Start with 1 per cent

hydrocortisone, which you can get from the chemist, and apply twice a day. If that is not giving you any relief, ask your doctor for something stronger. When you wash, do not use soap - try aqueous cream instead. Do not use talcum powder.

I AM a 34-year-old man and have

been suffering from flu-like symptoms for the last 10 months. I have chronic aches in my limbs, feelings of "overheating and burning" and complete fatigue. After labouring with an unsympathetic GP for many months (being told the human body is a wonderful thing and I will recover), I changed GPs. The new GP has done blood tests which show decreased liver function and evidence of Epstein Barr Virus infection. Is it possible to have this virus without getting glandular fever?

Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) is the organism that causes glandular fever. It sounds like you are suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome. Up to 10 per cent of people with EBV infection go on to develop chronic fatigue syndrome. If your liver function is disturbed. there may be some other cause, such as hepatitis C infection. Active treatment of your chronic fatigue, in the form of graded aerobic exercise and cognitive behaviour therapy, should help you to recover. Excessive rest can delay recovery.

Please send your questions to A Question of Health, ' The Independent', 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fox 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@ independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier regrets that he is unable to respond personally to questions

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How to woo the Tory press

reporter in the higher tax band spent the session concentrating on how his own tax position would be affected and why it was a big story. He even tried to rope in the other backs who were present.

The Treasury spiked his guns by leaking a line on the ending of tax relief for maintenance payments to the Saturday papers, but it illustrated how the press's political coverage can be subservient to the opinions - and the bank accounts of individual journalists.

The journalist in question was from a Labour-supporting paper, which shows how much more fluid relations between the press and the Government have become. The

Lobby hacks worked out their tax position and were determined we shouldn't win

world is more complex than it once was, thanks to New Labour's efforts with titles and specific journalists.

Legend has it that the Labour Party lost the 1992 general election because of John Smith's shadow Budget. I well remember the day of the launch, and the general belief that it was a total triumph, which was how most papers reported it at first.

round telling everyone that eight out of 10 people would be better off. But this did not include the political journalists and commentators, all of whom would be worse off. And so, the myth goes, after John Smith's announcement, the Lobby hacks sat down and worked out their own tax position should Labour win, and mined that we wouldn't.

New Labour realised it was vitally important to win over the so-called some of their wildest excesses.

It was obvious to anyone that the country's biggest-selling paper, The Sun. would be the first target. The tired of the Tories under Major. smear by political reporter Tony I were flummoxed, we had no idea



Us spin-doctors proudly went Full spin ahead: Alastair Campbell briefs Charles Reiss, political editor of the Evening Standard'

recognised the importance of The Sun years ago. They knew that it was what their members read.

So Bill Jordan, of the engineering union, was writing for that paper when my friend Alastair Campbell was still writing pornography for from that day on, they were deter- Forum. Despite a rearguard action by some of the journalists, including

There was as much likelihood that the Daily Mail would support Labour as there is of Jack Cunningham cycling to work. Who will paper had been Neil Kinnock's ever forget the headline "Labour's biggest tormentor, but had grown Dirty Dozen", a crude communist

Some trade union leaders had Bevins - now a fully paid-up member of the Alastair Campbell fan club. Like The Sun, the Moil had lost faith in the Tories, and while it would never support Labour, they were not in the mood to do much damage.

Before the election, I met the top Mail team, including the late Lord Rothermere, with Gordon Brown and his adviser, Ed Balls, to perthe political editor, The Sun came out suade them of our case. The main for Tony Blair, but significantly not area of concern to Lord Rothermere economy, or our plans for trade union legislation, but what we were

going to do about pets' passports. He had a dog and the quarantine laws meant he could not easily take it with him on holiday. Gordon and

what our policy was. Fortunately, Ed, whose parents live in Italy and have a dog, did. He told Lord Rothermere that dog passports were a priority for New Labour. I'm convinced that that spin helped in preventing the Mail from doing its worst.

The other Tory supporting paper is of course The Telegraph. Not much hope of them doing other than giving full support to the Tories. But even here you can make inroads. tough new regime for the New Deal, whereby benefit would be lost if an offer of a job was not taken up, it was to The Daily Telegraph that we support than the Shadow Cabinet. Looking at the coverage that the

Budget got last week, you can tell that both the Mail and The Daily Telegraph have now fully reverted to type. If Gordon Brown had abolished income tax altogether, they would have attacked the Budget for not doing enough for marriage.

But it remains true that the politics of a paper are important when decisions are taken as to who should get given which story. The sensible targeting of different messages for papers supporting the same policy from different perspectives - the made vigorously to the then Sun New Deal being a classic case.

But as I've shown, individuals can doubt in my mind that someone's to Gordon Brown from 1993 to turned. In fact, they gave it more also be a great influence, not only personal financial circumstances newspaper owners, but also their employees.

attention to columnists than to the spin put on news stories. Each paper has their top man, for they are nearly all men. The Financial Times has Philip Stevens, who sometimes seemed to know more about what is going on in the Treasury than I did. It was his columns that forced the pace in Government on the Euro. Andy Marr

But when trying to influence a political journalist, most time is spent wining and dining the political columnist rather than the political editor of a paper, because it produces a double benefit. If you influence the columnist, and thereby their opinion pieces, you are also influencing the broadcasters - who pay a lot more

his toes. Many people have missed The Independent's Don Macintyre while he has been off writing his hiography of Peter Mandelson. Over at The Times, Peter Riddell

now writes for both the New Labour

Express and The Observer, and

still manages to keep Tony Blair on

'The Daily Telegraph' gave the New Deal more support than the Shadow Cabinet did

seems to write more than most, but he does at least understand economics, which is more than one could say for Peter Hitchens at The Express. In fact, there are few good right-wing scribes around at the moment but Peter Oborne is an exception, and I'm not saying that because he is taking me to Cheltenham races this week. The list would not be complete without Paul Routledge, known as Rantledge down at The Mirror, where Piers Morgan and his political team have changed the fortunes of the paper.

the ISA - which were designed to For years, with a few honourable help the lower-paid to save, it had not bargained on how much money exceptions, the Fleet Street papers some political editors had invested were known in Labour circles as the in the Tessas and PEPs which were "Tory press". This is no longer the case because, just like politics itself, things are not black and white any-The Evening Standard was the first to condemn the ISA, quickly folmore. This new complex world lowed by The Sun. It was particularly means that the politics of a paper, annoying that The Sun should take and perhaps more importantly those who would benefit most, a point I itored by the politicians than ever.

editor, Stuart Higgins. There was no The writer was press secretary January 1999. His radio show, were being treated as more impor-'Sunday Service', begins on 4 April on Radio 5 Live

CLASSIFIED

WILLIAMS (IRON & STEEL)

LIMITED solvency Act 1986

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE No. 1637 of 1999 CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF HILL SAMUEL IN EMERG MENT TRUST PLC

and IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 NOTICE IS HEREITY GIVEN the Manch 1989 presented to Hel Manchy's High Court of Justice for (1842), Carlot of the the control of the control GIVEN that the Petrtion is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London W. 23, 211, on Wednesday the 24th

share premium account should appear at the time of the bearing in A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the under-mento-teed Selections on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Detect this 11th day of March 1999
Smithus & Sentinous

andra ECCM 2TX Tel 9171 (2x 200) Ref: SW\$9N2 RES (721)/ACR Solicitors for the above-named Company

The Insolvency Act 1986 MIRAGE TRAVEL LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY CIVEN, pursuant to Section 96 of the Inspirency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Circlines of the above named Company will be held on 26th March 1999 at 4 Chasterhouse Square, London, ECIM 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTILER CAVEN that Aburice Raymond Domington, FIPA, of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterbuse Spates, London, ECIM 6EN is appoined to act as the quasified insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98/2/at of the said Act who will knowled creditors, free of charge, with such information conceiving the Company's affairs as they may nessonably require.

Dated this, 8th clay of March 1999 By Order of the Board A AKBAR, Director

Legal Notices IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

IN THE MATTER OF K. CHELLARAM & SONS (LONDON) LIMITED (LONDON) LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREN (GVEN, pursuant to bectom 80 of the insoberne,
Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors
of the above company will be held at
2 Bloomsbury Street, London Willia
351, on 23rd Manch 1986, at 11,10am
for the purpose of dealing with
Sections 99 101 of the insoberne, Act
1986

der their seemith) must give particulars of their seemith and to value at they with to vote at the meeting. The resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the hyudalion is to be remainerated and the meeting may ruceive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. An explanation note is enclosed. NOTICE 15. ALSO HEREBY CIVEN, pursuant to Seculion 90(2) of the Insolvency Act 1990, that a list of the ratios and addresses of the rom-pain's enclosive and the constant of the control of charge at the offices of Baker Tilly. 2 Bloombeary Street, London WCLB SST, between Hitm and spin on the ton testings deep prior to the day of the meeting.

the mediag. A form of prove which, if intended to be used for viring at the meeting, must be duly completed and ledged at the regestered office of the company. 2 Bloomsbury Street, London WCIB 38Ti, not later than 12 moon or the last business day before the meeting. Dated this lists day of March 1999 By Order of the Board Mr. Chellaram

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GLOBAL TIMES CORP. LIMITED NOTICE IS HERBY CAVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Meanings of Creditors of the shows famed Companies will be held at Calife House, 239 Regents Park Road, London NJ 3LF on Wednesdry the 24th day of March 1999 at 11.00 am, 11.30 am, 12.00 noto, 12.30 pm and 1.00 pm respectively for the purposes interference in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Any information required by the Creditors concerning the companies affects may be obtained from H I Sonsky of Sonskys, studied at Calife House, 239 Regents Pack Road, London, NJ 3LF being a person qualified to act as a lead-versely Practitioner.

Dated this bessely 9th day of March 1999

1999 Ry Order of the Board A. Collis. Director

The Insulvency Act 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY CIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insulvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditions of the above named Company will be held at Fairhann Hotel, Listle Aston Road, Aldridge, Wahall, West Midlands on 19th March 1999 at 12:00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.

Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Norman Cowan & Associates, 96 High Street, Barnet, Heris, ENS 55N tot later than 12:00 noon on 18th March 1999.

For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is redured fundes the sumenders his security to lodge at Norman Cowan & Associate, 96 High Street, Barnet, Herts, ENS 55N before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of the security, the clate when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.

Notice is further given that a first of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Norman Cowan & Associates, 96 High Street, Barnet, Herts, ENS 55N before and the value at which it is assessed.

Notice is further given that a first of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Norman Cowan & Associates, 96 High Street, Barnet, Herts, ENS 55N between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the now business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.

By Order of the Board P R HEWITT, Director PETTY SESSIONAL DIVISION OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES NOTICE OF APPLICATION PROVISION JUSTICES ON-LICENCE

TO ALL WINDALIT MAY CONCERN 1. Nobil Manharinas do PezaEspress (Restaurant) Limited, 7 McKay Erading Esans, Kensal Road, London W16 58N. Estate, Kensal Ronal, London With This having theirig the past an anothe carried on the trade or cabing of Anna Manager DO HEREBY GIVE YOU MOTICE that it is my integrated on the trade of the This Seasonal Unique and Richard upon Thunes to be held at Redmond upon Thunes Magistrane Court. The Court House, Parkshot, Richard Sarrey TWY SE; on 12. April 1999 at 1000 and for the great to me of a provinced law for the great to me of a provinced law integrating liquid of the descriptions for consumptions on the premise should be absented and strate at Cround Floor, Londrouse, Red Low Street, Richard & Street TWY 1892, and to be haven to the special of Prizza Empress" which said premises are

"PazzaEmpress" which said premises an owned by Wombourne Lindaed II Catherine Place London SWIE 6DX. GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS This I life day of March 1999 Popplesion Alien Sulicans For and on behalf of the applican

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Newspapers question the power of television

to be abolished.

When the Treasury first launched

the new individual savings accounts

tant than the politics of the paper.

IN 1998 national newspaper groups ploughed £73m into television advertising, but it might be time to ask: how much is a TV advertisement worth to a newspaper?

This newspaper has just begun a substantial television advertising campaign. The Independent has plenty to shout about: new sections, a cluster of awards and a year-on-year increase in sales for the first time in three years.

But many newspaper executives are now asking whether television advertising is the most cost effective way of improving sales.

A number of factors conspire to make newspapers, both broadsheet and tabloid, among the most expensive products to put on air. The first thing is the short-term nature of most newspaper advertising campaigns. TV companies have advance booking, or AB, deadlines around six weeks ahead of transmission date. After this date you pay a premium to get on air, and the closer your required broadcast date the bigger the premium,

Because most newspapers run advertising to support individual promotions - giveaway tickets, holidays, books for schools or whatever - they will not often know what those promotions are to be until the last moment. Some weeks, the media buyers for a newspaper group will not be instructed to enter the airtime trading market until a week or even a few days before they want the ad to air. This explains the increasing use newspapers are making of radio, because ads there can **ANALYSIS** PAUL McCANN

been made from scratch at lunchtime on a Friday and broadcast that same night.

The other addition to a paper's TV advertising costs is the Friday-night squeeze. The prevailing wisdom is that readers have little time to read and make use of promotions in the week. On Saturdays and Sundays there are bigger papers, and more leisure time in which to read them. But that means newspapers all piling on to C4, ITV and to a lesser extent C5, trying to buy around programmes watched by a young. metropolitan audience. They don't want to share an ad break with the others and so they pay through the nose for their place

be turned around very quickly. in the schedules. The premium More than once TV ads have newspapers pay to get on TV, compared with other types of goods, can be more than 50 per cent - in other words they get 50 per cent less advertising for their money. Only cars during the summer car buying times, and alcohol brands around football matches, have to stump up

so much extra to get on air. And where does this get newspapers? It is very difficult to measure the effect of longterm, brand-building advertising campaigns. They change perceptions in cinemas, on radio and on posters, over periods that take years. But the immediate boost from a quick, promotional ad campaign is fairly easy to quantify.

Last month The Sunday

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Times, which spent £4.7m on TV last year, helped boost its average sales figure when it advertised a millennium partwork offer on TV. This would have raised sales by around 20,000 at a cost of £200,000 over the weekend. The Observer, which advertised heavily in January, eased off its spending to just one weekend and saw its sales average fall by 13,000 month on month. The weekend it did advertise, its sales would have been closer to 430,000 than the 406,000 they came in at Last year The Observer spent £1.1m on TV advertising a quarter of The Sunday Times' budget.

In the tabloid market, TV acvertising seems to pull in a bigger sale than for broadsheets The tabloids can get a 100,000 lift from a really good prometion, and spending £300,000 over a weekend is not unusual.

Associated Newspapers is the biggest spender and last year put a whopping £18.8m on air just for its Most titles. A recent BA half-price offer would have cost around £400,000 in air time, but it had promotion tokens in the Saturday Doily Mail, the Mail on Sunday and Monday's London Evening Standard

But what happens in both the broadsheet and tabloid markets is that heavy promotional advertising falls to retain readers. Perhaps cumulatively the Mail titles have benefited from almost non-stop promotional advertising, but for most newspapers, readers come to expect giveaway offers every day. And newspapers need

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THE TUESDAY REVIEW

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estion the VISION



TV news has to play a generation game LISTENING TO the Labour MP

Gerald Kaufman and the former Now that there are so many sources of news, is network TV strictly for old-timers? By Gavin Esler BBC chairman Marmaduke Hussey criticise BBC News 24 over recent weeks made me think back to the revelation of watching TV news in the United States. From the moment I moved to Washington, in the late

1980s, I realised there was something strange about the main evening news battleground on the big three networks, ABC, NBC and CBS, but I couldn't quite work out what it was. Was it the fact that on ABC's

World News Tonight the "world" outside north America rarely got a look in? Partly. Was it that out of every 30-minute news show, there was only eight minutes of news because the rest was commercials or promotions? Yes, but there was something more. It was the commercials

themselves. They all seemed aimed at older people. There were the Centrum Silver adverts for a diet supplement for the over-50s ("It's Great to be Silver"). Then there were the

haemorrhoid ads and ads for

laxatives or incontinence pads. Over on the rock music station MTV, in contrast, were ads for tampons and Coca-Cola

If you start thinking about US television less in terms of programme content and more as an advertising delivery system, you recognise that American network TV news has a special appeal for the post-menopausal incontinent, constipated and sick. "Network news is for

geezers," one of my American TV news colleagues explained with refreshing candour, meaning it is for older people. The bigges story in the American media for the past decade has been precisely this problem. How do you pursue the chimera of the newspaper reader without alienating that increasing

is ageing? Should you? If you don't, won't your viewers and

readers eventually die off? A couple of years ago Time magazine reported that the percentage of American adults reading a daily paper had fallen from 78 per cent in 1970 to 64 per cent in 1995. In 1981 the big three TV networks, ABC, CBS, and NBC could boast that every night, 41 per cent of all American homes tuned in to their early evening news shows. By 1995 that was down to 26 per cent. What has changed? Well, three changes all point to increased competition. First, 24-hour TV news networks, CNN, MSNBC and FOX, are increasingly competitive and at moments of crisis, like the Lewinsky scandal pile on viewers from modest bases. Second, the Internet has

transformed how many of us get access to information. And third,

talk radio has become the most popular radio format in the US, surpassing rock or country

Bill Adams, professor of public administration at George Washington University, and editor of a news sheet called Talk Daily, puts it this way: "Roughly one out of every five or six Americans listens to talk radio every 24 hours. It has a big audience. More people listen to Rush Limbaugh than read The Washington Post, The New York Times, The LA Times and Chicago Tribune put together and doubled."

Now of course, Britain is different... except where it is the same. The BBC's Radio 5 Live was derided at the time of its launch for combining news and sport in an accessible way. It is now Sony Radio Station of the Year. BBC Online has become a

favourite Internet site. And News no Radio 5, no News 24, no Online 24 has grown from nothing 15 months ago to a news source seen by more than five million viewers a week. If it had been launched in the private sector by a Ted Turner or Rupert Murdoch, there would be ads trumpeting it as the "fastest growing TV news

network in Britain".

Trying to make three state-ofthe-art computer systems drive News 24 has produced some uncomfortable results. My personal favourite was the night I read that Boris Yeltsin had been admitted to hospital, and our computer system decided to run pictures of the BSE crisis. I am talking about Boris Yeltsin.

chopping up a sheep's carcass. While such cock-ups have become less frequent, the BBC could have taken the strategic decision to forget about all of it -

 and to do what the BBC has always done. But if you do what you have always done, you don't always get what you always got.

In a society where we now work, shop and play 24 hours a day, only those who think that network news is for geezers want to be told when they can watch it on TV. Even the stodgiest BBC manager has seen the figures pointing to a slow death. They show that houses with cable and satellite services in Britain watch far less BBC news than those of us stuck with the five terrestrial channels. The prospect for the BBC would be to become, to put it in a brutally ageist way, your grandad's news. fine for a while, but eventually driven to apeing American TV

infirm, but with little to offer

partly because the leadership of Rupert Murdoch and Ted Turner spotted all this long ago. But now Britain has a choice. We can go the Kaufman or Hussey route, which means that as a nation we accept that only Americanowned 24-hour news stations will work, because we have become so third-rate we cannot afford a British alternative. Maybe, like our car industry and half the supposedly "British" national newspapers published in London, we no longer care whether TV news channels are foreign-owned. Personally, I do care. The risk is not that we cannot do it but that we will not fund it sufficiently to make it truly competitive. Britain can and does compete as a world player in TV news. We can produce news for vour grandchildren as well as your grandparents. Just watch us.

Gavin Esler is a presenter on BBC News 24 and author of The United States of Anger

Staggeringly masculine

The New Statesman may have gone soft under New Labour, but it's still a male clique. By Natasha Walter

the New Statesman, Beige blinds are closed against the murky London light, and dotted around the large room are a dozen or ing into subdued laughter. Michael McGuinness, the illustrator, in a his brush in red ink, pauses and dins. to work," he says softly, "after being at newspapers. And the editors here are all men, since I have arrived during a week when the deputy editor, Cris- reaves. When the magazine tina Odone, is on holiday - are pretty mellow. David Gibbons, the art editor, formerly of The Sunday Telegraph and The Sunday Express, wearing a neat little beard and dark maroon shirt, says: "It's the only place I've ever worked with such a good atmosphere."

You'd never think, from talking to the Statesman's staff, that the heat is on. It feels like a charmed little backwater in the stormy weather of London journalism. Yet a storm of sorts has been raging here. It began when a potential buyer, the millionaire novelist Robert Harris, announced that he wanted to resurrect its starry past. "The collapse of the New Statesman has been a minor intellectual and journalistic tragedy for this country," he wrote in The Sunday Times last December. Anger was heard wherever leftwing journalists gathered; how could Harris write publicly what they had

all been saying privately for years? At the time, the Statesman's owner, Geoffrey Robinson, was the Government's Paymaster General, and unable to take much active interest in the magazine. But since the Christmas scandal over his loan to Mandelson, Robinson is out of the Government and able to take a more hands-on role as proprietor. Robert Harris's bid to save the New Statesman from itself has thus met with polite refusal. Yet the magazine's circulation is just over 20.000. and it is said to lose around £10,000

t's a sleepy Friday after- a week. The Spectator, in contrast, left a lot of people out. noon in the sleepy office of has a circulation of 56,000. In other words, Harris had a point.

The Statesman's editor, Peter Wilby, seems unperturbed. We have hınch in a cosy Italian restaurant in Wilton Street, the sort that figures. in Amis novels - that's Kingsley, not Martin - and over his tagliatelle and his glass of bouse white Wilby sets out his comfortable view of what the hairy blue sweater, pauses and dips magazine, should be doing. "It should be a relaxing, weekend read," pauses and dips. "It's a quiet place he says. "The sort of magazine you can enjoy over a cup of coffee."

Peter Wilby's fans see that softened touch as a refreshing contrast to his predecessor, Ian Hargappointed Hargreaves, ex-editor of The Independent, as editor in 1996, the Statesman was revolutionised and identified itself solidly with the

Odone would like to see the 'New Statesman' become more of a platform for women writers

emerging New Labour government. The columnist Suzanne Moore remembers going to a party for the reaves took over "The parties in the past had always been full of men in beards downing pints in a cellar," she remembers, "and then there we were in the ICA with a lot of young men in suits." So the magazine reflected and magnified the change in the fortunes of the left, moving swiftly from a Seventies fringe meet-

ing to a Nineties cabinet meeting. "What Hargreaves did with the magazine exactly paralleled what Blair did with his party," says one exmember of staff. "And he was loved and hated for it, just like Blair." But the limitations of Hargreaves' vision may have moved from men in beards to men in suits, but that still The challenge facing Peter Wilby

is to push the magazine into a wider arena. There is certainly a lot of good feeling around Wilby, the ex-editor of The Independent on Sunday. But he has been editing the magazine for nearly a year; is he going to make it or break it? He is certainly offering articles that take a wider view on British culture than our taxation policy (take two recent features Will Self on how British society is too nice, or the columnist Andrew

Marr on how it is too spiteful), and a beefed-up back half, where you can find decent arts and books coverage. for those early days hanging over the

past," he told me.

the feeling that lefty hacks have for the good old days of the New Statesman, whether they are looking right back to its first, golden years, when Sidney and Beatrice Webb went for walks along Beachy Head with their friends to talk about launching a new magazine, and Bertrand Russell and Maynard Keynes and George Bernard Shaw played out their arguments there, or whether we are talking about the shiny Seventies, when Anthony Howard got the young James Fenton and Christopher Hitchens, Martin Amis and Ju-

lian Barnes to fill its pages.

If you need evidence that the magazine is attached to its past, catch the fact that the server on which the K-drive, after the magazine's second editor, Kingsley Martin, so that the writers can still "send copy to Kingsley". The New Statesman's past history as a club for clever men has always been vividly present to me: my great-grandfather, the maverick liberal journalist SK Ratcliffe put the new into New Statesman, telling Beatrice and Sidney Webb way back in 1913 that "The Statesman" alone was a bad name. With that family his-

There is still a cloud of nostalgia Statesman. When Robert Harris thought of taking it over, he was thinking not just of its future. "The key thing was, I wanted to get back to something that had existed in the Nobody should underestimate

> something different. But Wilby hasn't quite managed to deliver something that feels fresh. The peculiar failing of the magazine - its inability to read like something that was written today rather than last month or last year or 10 years ago - is epitomised in its irredeemably masculine flavour. There are honourable exceptions, including columnist Suzanne Moore. But three weeks ago, of 23 bylined articles on the contents page, a pathetic three were by women. Partly, that maddening absence of women is a result of where the magazine is situated - within Labour Party politics.

agazine is produced is called the tory I am keenly aware that if I'm to

NS editor Peter Wilby: It should be a relaxing, weekend read ... the sort of magazine you enjoy over coffee' Andrew Buurman buy the magazine, I don't actually in Westminster, to a procession of ar-decided not to go for it. "If it had want it to be something that my fore-ticles that dissect ministers' every fathers would have bought, but move. The magazine has a frankly incestuous relationship with the party top-brass. Magazine staff kent saying things to me that made the lot of them sound like sulky schoolboys. "Whelan wouldn't speak to me for weeks," they said. "Peter wouldn't speak to lan for months..." "Tony got terrifically angry with John, about an article John wrote

about how nobody liked Tony." It is an open secret that around the time of Ian Hargreaves' departure from the magazine, the first potential editor to be approached was Jonathan Freedland, a columnist on The Guardian who is happy to network in New Labour circles. Freedland was sounded out by Geoffrey Robinson together with Charlie Whelan and Ed Balls, during a series of very private meetings. In the end, he decided not to go for the editorship - but the discussions were being held right in the heart of the New Labour club.

And that little clique is famously exclusive. One female journalist who would have been a real runner for the editorship after Hargreaves' gossip about who's in and who's out departure, told me frankly why she

meant spending half my evenings with Clare Short and Mo Mowlam, that would have been one thing. But I knew perfectly well that it would have meant spending all my time with people like Charlie Whelan and Ed Rails, those ferociously selfimportant, opinionated men with a sense of humour bypass, and I just looked at that sort of life with dread and horror. I thought, if you can't hack it, don't do it. So I didn't."

The second time I visit the magazine. I am glad to see the deputy editor, Cristina Odone, in action. A throaty-voiced Italian-American. Odone previously edited The Catholic Herald. Now she throws herself around that subdued office in a rush, running into Peter's office, honeying and babying all the staff, whispering on the telephone, promising copy every moment.

Despite her great social charm, which can be seen as fluffiness, Odone has serious intentions. She wants the magazine to become more of a platform for women writers and women's issues. Eighty per cent of the readers are men, and she wants that to change. "There are two voices that you didn't see in the mag- to a large audience.

azine in the past," she says, "that of youth and that of womanhood. This isn't just a problem of the left - it's a problem of an industry, journalism, that has ghettoised women's issues. I'm talking about trying to make the difference between a macho magazine that just does politics with a capital P, and one that takes on board everything else and sees that women are not to be excluded."

Interestingly, when I ask Peter Wilby what pieces he has been proudest to publish, the very first article he mentions is one that Helen Wilkinson wrote last autumn, about how Labour politics has become a club for masculine control freaks. Wilkinson is a co-founder of Demos and her piece focused on a swell of anger among women who felt betrayed by the feminine windowdressing on an essentially masculine pursuit of power. She argued for a politics in which "the boys at the heart of New Labour" could learn to surrender some of their power.

She is right. And it's only if the New Statesman attempts to break down the cosy, masculine coterie that keeps a stranglehold on political debate that it will appeal again

The Sun rises in the east – and sets off a price war

At the last Labour Party conference

the Statesman threw the most

crowded party, where young men in

suits talked to you with their gaze

constantly roaming past your shoul-

der in case Tony or Gordon or Peter

walked through the door. The mag-

azine opens every week with its

spoof MP's column, full of in-jokes

about New Labour, and proceeds via

Steve Richards' inside-track politi-

cal column and Paul Routledge's

DOES ANY of the following sound familiar ? A racy new mass market newspaper will be brash, hot on human interest stories, strong on sports coverage and carry lots of Oriental Doily News, and a clutch cover price of HK\$2 (about 18p), entertainment news. And another

thing, it will be called The Sun. The new Sun, however, is far removed from Britain; it is to launched in Hong Kong this Thursday. Like its namesake, though, it belongs to an aggressive publishing company which is prepared to launch a price

war to secure its place in the market. The Hong Kong publisher of The Sum is the Oriental Press Group, which is emphemistically described as being either "colourful" or "controversial". It already owns Hong Kong's best selling newspaper, The

A racy new mass-market newspaper is about to hit Hong Kong. Many fear the worst. By Stephen Vines

of other high selling titles.

It is now heading in an even more downmarket direction, hoping to attract younger readers and, according to its pre-launch marketing material, take readers away from its bitter rival, the revolution-

ary Apple Duily newspaper. The rivalry between the Oriental group and the Next Media Group. which owns Apple, sparked a vicious price war two years ago which ended with five closures in Hong Kong's newspaper world.

The Sun will be launched with a

while the competition sells at HK\$5. The third ranking Sing Pao Daily has already launched a pre-emptive strike by promising to sell at HK\$3 while the Apple Daily has made it clear that it will not sit idly by in a

price war. While the battle lines are being drawn on the price front, there is considerable speculation over how the fight will be pursued at the editorial level, where there are fears of

greater sensationalism. Last week all the popular papers ran big stories about a rumoured sui-

cide attempt by Leon Lai, a heart throb hig league pop star, who had to hold a press conference to prove he was not dead or self-mutilated.

Some in the newspaper industry fear that The Sun will drag reporting down to new depths, but its publishers promise that it will be "selfdisciplined" and stress "good taste" with an "avoidance of obscene, indecent and profane language".

Many of the reporters it has recruited are young and new to the industry. Their enthusiasm may take them in directions closer to those parture for popular journalism in retains an enormous stable of re-Hong Kong, which is a bizarre mixture of extraordinarily racy reportage alongside serious political, economic financial and international news. Whereas British tabloids used to sell newspapers on the shoulders of unclad page three girls, their more prudish Hong Kong counterparts (which are all broad-

quite happy to show obscene scene of the crime pictures depicting severed limbs and the like. The Oriental Daily News made known in Hong Kong but only came

sheets) eschew naked flesh but are

This would mark a radical de- its name from crime reporting and porters who cruise around Hong Kong in cars ready to rush to crime scenes, sometimes arriving before

It may be thought that the paper's interest in crime is somewhat inappropriate considering that Ma Sik-chun, its principal founder is a fugitive from justice living in Taiwan where he escaped after fleeing from Hong Kong's biggest ever drug trai-

ficking conspiracy trial. The Ma family are very well

to the attention of the British public a year ago when they used the Oriental Daily to publicise a demand for the Conservative Party to retur a £1m donation made by the Mas in June 1994 "in exchange for a personal matter". According to the Ma family, "this matter was not dealt with" and so they were publicly

demanding the money back. Rupert Murdoch, owner of The Sun in Britain, is also known to court politicians but seems to have done so without attracting the same kind of publicity as the Mas. Like them. however, he has proved himself brave entering tight newspaper markets and has been ruthless in eliminating the competition.

The similarities are compelling.

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Doctoring the books

Media medic Vernon Coleman is best known for his views on sex, but what he really cares about is animal rights. By Naomi Marks

back greying hair and quiet-spoken manner. Dr book", his People column, is Vernon Coleman looks every inch the media scientist's media scientist.

claims, won't even debate publicly with him on TV, the radio or in print now. His trenchant views on scientists in the pay of big corporations, the evils of meat-eating and the non-threat of Aids to the straight community are too

much for them, he says. Not that he is bothered. His role, he insists, is to tell his millions of readers the truth. And as he has just shaken hands to renew the contract for his weekly column in The People, his future as king of the media docs is assured.

Coleman, 52, says he has written at least one column a week since he was 18. He is, however medically qualified. and was a GP for 10 years. But ne tired of NHS bureaucracy and his holistic beliefs clashed with the largely drug-driven Health Service. In any case, he says, he wrote a lot about the dangers of tranquillisers and found himself "getting into lots of trouble". So he packed it in.

He became Tvam's first no one would read it." television doctor, then a Daily Star columnist, was poached by The Sun, and then moved to

patterned ever since. He did not try to column, though, Coleman avoid controversy, though.

"Populism not professionalism" might be his motto. For the uninitiated, "Dr Vernon's Casepart tried-and-tested tabloid titillation, part anti-Establishment crusade, a curious mix of Only he is not. Most, he right-onism and right-offism. A aims, won't even debate recent "Casebook" sported the headline "I get a naughty thrill giving guys an eyeful", as well as the following on genetic engineering: "Arrogant, ignorant scientists, businessmen who think only of the bottom line and greedy, weak, stupid politicians are a far greater threat to life

than Saddam Hussein." From rows with the Advertising Standards Authority, to being injuncted in the High Court, to being censured by the Press Complaints Commission, he seems to have courted it

His People column always leads on a sexy issue, but there is method behind this sex-madness, he insists. "The lead letter is nearly always about sex because that gives them a headline to write. The rest of the column is hardly ever about sex. It's a smokescreen. If I wrote a column which attacked drug companies, vivisectors, governments for lying, or genetic engineering exclusively,

He says he writes for the tabloids because it gives him a mass audience of readers who

his "Casebook" has found a home made up". Asked to describe his stumbles. "It's me," he says, before pausing, then adding: "I suppose I try and write in blood a lot of the time. I suppose a lot of it is violent in that if I get angry about something, I don't try to hide it." Then he points out that there is the straight medical advice which shouldn't be overlooked: "There's quite a lot of tinnitus and piles."

If he didn't have the column, Coleman says he would be reduced to standing in the street with a placard - which he would happily do. But he isn't just a canny campaigner with an interesting take on moral matters. He is a mini-marketing wonder.

Ten years ago, tired of meddling book editors, he set up his Devon-based self-publishing venture. It now has three imprints: European Medical Journal for his monthly health letter, Chiltern Designs for his fiction; and Blue Books for "everything we don't know where to put".

He has written scores of books, spends £500,000 a year advertising them, and claims self-publishing still makes a profit. Then there are his premium-rate phone lines, with titles such as "Oral sex - how to do it". At one stage, he put his name (now trademarked) to some 200 of these. All these ventures are freely puffed in his column: his contracts, he explains, have always specified that he is allowed to do this. The cross-



Vernon Coleman spends £500,000 a year marketing his books

his work on the subject.

lot of money, then eventually

they get a bit upset." He admits

that editors have asked him to

says, enables editors to get months writing another book on him cheaply - which, at "not far off" a reported £150,000 a year, isn't that cheap.

It also has a worthy rationale. For example, his advertised sexy phone lines subsidise less popular but more informative lines, such as those on endometriosis or vaccines. The ohone lines, he says, don't bring in as much as people think

The most important subsidies, however, go into his work as a campaigner against animal cruelty - about which he is

promotion of his works, he fanatical He has just spent six at them. They shout at me. I resign and stamp my feet. I'm animal rights, and his website terrible - probably the most difficult columnist in Britain to - www.vernoncoleman.com allows you to download much of deal with."

He says there are three things in life worth doing: trying His campaigning, he says, to change the world, trying to has upset many and led to death threats over the years. have fun and trying to make "It's difficult not to sound money. "If you can do all three paranoid, but if you annoy a lot things at the same time, then of large companies for a long that's fantastic." period of time and cost them a

He adds: "Newspapers have vast amounts of money. It liberates them enormously if you

THE WORD ON THE STREET

misunderstand the "send to everyone in the office so they can have a good laugh" option on his computer message system, but he is a lesson to us all. Last week the newsroom was as giddy as it ever gets at the Mail, after a grovelling memo from Gallagher to editor-in-chief Paul Dacre ended up in the news tray on everyone's computers. The memo apologised at length for missing a story about the death of an exmodel and, like a Chinese Communist self-criticism session, listed where he had failed his supreme leader. Punishment squads have been known to drag erring Mail journalists off screaming in the night to a place called "Metro", so Mr Gallagher is right to be worried.

TONY GALLAGHER, the Daily Mail's news editor. won't be the last hack to

Channel 4's Queer as Folk just get plain weirder. They are in a minority - of the 4.000 responses to the programme, 60 per cent the 40 per cent against comprises people who shouldn't be allowed near sharp objects. The sublimely mad has to be one call, from a doublebarrelled name, the day after the first episode was shown: "My housekeeper is still so upset today she has had to go home." Clearly there is nowt so queer as anti-Queer folk.

THOSE OPPOSED to

Page three of The Times looks more like page three of The Sun every

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important than a determination to become a journalist.

wanting to become a journalist, this is the course you need. Approved by the Periodicals Training Council and the National



week. And last week it went the whole hog and went for a topless celebrity shot. Admittedly, no newspaper could resist the Nicole Kidman, Tom Cruise trailer pictures from Stanley Kubrick's last picture, Eyes Wide Shut. but only the red tops thought that showing the whole thing uncut was newsworthy. Er, the redtops and The Times, that is. The mid-market tabloids and all the other broadsheets eschewed the frame with nipples in it, but The Thunderer seemingly has different values these days.

THE SUN'S verdict on the Lewis-Holyfield fight was unequivocal: "Stitch-Up". screamed its front page yesterday, followed by two pages headlined "Crime of the Century" in the news pages, and five pages in the sports section. Its main piece on the "funny business" behind the fight result was written by boxing correspondent Colin Hart in New York.

Strange, then, that Hart himself had scored the fight as a draw in a result which The Sun relegated to the bottom

corner of a sports page.

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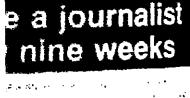
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Section 12

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The seasons

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PAINTED ANGELS (15)

Jon Sanders' revisionist western revolves around a frontier brothel presided over by Brenda Fricker's no-nonsense madam, Earthy, naturalistic acting goes hand in hand with Graid Packer's evocative visuals, though the resolutely downbeat handling makes it slow-going at times. West End: Renoir

Alex De La Igiesia's quasi-sequel to David Lynch's Wild at Heart is a strutting caper, tequila-ed to the gills and running on a kind of

NEW FILMS

CENTRAL STATION (15) Director: Watter Salles

Starring: Femanda Montenegro, Vinicius de Oliveira Rio's teeming rail terminus serves as the effective launchpad for Walter Salles's Oscarnominated Brazilian fable. A road-movie of sorts. Central Station trails Fernanda Montenegro's retired schoolmarm and her abandoned nineyear-old charge (played by Vinicius de Oliveira) on a bunt through the badlands of Sertao for the boy's missing father.

The trip takes in all facets of Brazil's disparate. displaced and poverty-stricken culture, yet Salles steadiastly refuses to make any heavyhanded political point here. Instead, his social critique remains implicit, low-down in the mix The fine, unshowy acting is set off nicely by Walter Carvalho's haunting visuals, as Central Station blooms by degrees into a picture that is both intimate and universal. West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Chelsea Local: Croydon Clocktower

PATCH ADAMS (12) Director: Tom Shadyac

Starring: Robin Williams, Monica Potter Through the hallowed halls of medical college goes Hunter "Patch" Adams (Robin Williams); a winsome shock-doc who has the patients in stitches while giving a collective hernia to the offy establishment. Patch, you see, subscribes to the theory that laughter is the best medicine of all. Idling on your deathbed? Well, here's Patch to stick an enema built on his snout and send you off with a smile. Still not happy? No problemo: Patch has a whole heap more comedy tricks up the sleeves of his regulation white coat. Still that's Patch Adams: Awakenings without the angst, Dead Poets Society without the heart. It's like the ultimate distillation of

the ultimate Robin Williams movie: the life sucked out and replaced by syrup. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

PLEASANTVILLE (12) Director: Gary Ross

Starring: Tobey Maguire, Reese Witherspoon See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Barbican Screen, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

SCHIZOPOLIS (18) Director: Steven Soderbergh Starring: Steven Soderbergh

Between Soderbergh's The Underneath (a boxoffice bomb) and last year's Out of Sight (a hit) came Schizopolis: a stop-gap experiment, a beaten retreat into art-house abstraction and evidence, perhaps, of a director in crisis.

Pieced together on a thrift-shop budget, Schizopolis is a bit of cinematic crazy-paving. Suburban manners, corporate paranoia, dental hygiene and the rituals of adultery are all astructed in energetic, scattergun fashion, though it's finally a shade too film-school wacky to warm to. While Schizopolis is undeniably the strangest film in the "American Independence" season that it's headlining, some of the other offerings (Clockwatchers, or Spike Lee's Four Little Girls) are more rounded and satisfying. Eye of God, Niagara Niagara and Sticky Fingers of Time are also showing. West End: Curzon Soho

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black comedy concerns the 60th birthday of a family patriarch who finds himself at the centre of dark secrets that unexpectedly emerge.

The Thin Red Line (15)

Terrence Malick returns to the screen after a 20-year absence with a hugely ambitious film about the battle of Guadalcanal. A war movie of a sort, though what that sort might be is uncertain.

Affliction (15) Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism, adapted from Russell Banks's novel, stars Nick Noite as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn, right).

Shakespeare in Love (15) This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for Romeo and Julies. With a multi-star cast,

Pleasantville (12) Two Nineties teenagers are magicked into the world

of a favourite Fifties sitcom and begin to exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-andwhite idyll. A witty, inventive parable.

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Shockheaded Peter

(Lyric Hammersmith, London) The deliciously sinister Struwwelpeter stories meet the macabre Tiger Lillies in a glorious, gorgeously gory evening of music theatre. To 10 Apr

Blue Heart

(The Pleasance, London) Bracing comedy and a dark heart in Max Stafford-Clark's exemplary production of Caryl Churchill's playful double-bill. To 21 Mar

(The Albery, London) Sheila Hancock (right). stars as the tight-fisted matriarch and leads a triumphant cast in Gorky's comedy. To 27 Mar

The Dispute (The Other Place, Stratford) Marivaux's mordant 18th-century play about a sexual experiment is brought to life in this RSC/Lyric Hammersmith co-production. To 20 Mar

Buried Alive (Northcott, Exeter) Mike Alfreds' crack company, Method and Madness, in a new play by Philip Osment, specialist in matters of the heart. To 27 Mar

DAVID BENEDICT

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Poliock (Tate Gallery)

Revelatory retrospective for the wild here of Abstract Expressionism going-on Old Master: legendary for his great drip paintings, but widely unshown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery) Some of the most intense portraiture ever (nght). Exquisite nudanges of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr



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Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)

The gardens and lily ponds at Giverny dissolve into fiery lights, liquid reflections, depths and voids. To 18 Apr

Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery)

Three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Gova and Otto Dix. Black-and white visions from the blackest of times. To 30 Mar

Richard Deacon (Tate Gallery, Liverpool)

"New World Order"; more curvacions assemblacioof wood, metal, glass and plastic - some gigantic, some humble - by the Eighties sculptor. To In Max.

TOM LUBBOR K

CINEMA WEST END

AFFLICTION (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. Lest End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's multi-layered Pulitzer Prize-winner. Oprah Winfrey's escapee slave struggles to cope with a visitation from a bewitched voodoo child who may (or may not) be the ghost of her dead daughter. Heartfelt acting and a vibrant visual sense paper over all manner of cracks. West End: Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

A Bug's Life sees humble insect Flik falling in with a raggle-taggle flea circus in an effort to save his community from marauding grasshoppers (headed by Kevin Spacey). The script throws in passably witty gags and the animation proves a feat of technical ingenuity. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Ofton Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15) See The Independent Recommends, above.

West End: Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Screen on Baker Street

HIDEOUS KINKY (15) Through the teeming orange/red/turquoise

backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters Fulham Road And local cinemas unwillingly in tow. Winslet does well with a change-of-pace role as the tale's permanently strung-out, unsated matriarch, and the child stars are startlingly good. West End: ABC Suiss Centre, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Virgin Fulham Road

AARY AND JACKIE (15)

Rull-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's warts-andall biopic of the Du Pré sisters. West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Soho. Local: Richmond

Jeff Goldblum plays Ricky, a TV executive. Fearful for his job, Ricky uses spiritual wanderer G (Eddie Murphy) as a frontman on his shopping show and sales go through the roof. G, in turn, teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons - you know, about Me and stuff Parts of Holy Mon are funny, but the film never finds the right tone. Local cinemas

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15) Essentially this is Shirley Valentine with an Afro-American spin, but Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the slideshow of tourist-brochure visuals. West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

LIFE'IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA È BELLA) (PG) In Roberto Benigni's Oscar-nominated comedy he takes centre-stage as a clowning Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. Spirited off to a deathcamp, he strives to convince his son that it's nothing more than an eccentric game. West End: Curzon Scho, Curzon Minema, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

PERDITA DURANGO (18)

posturing wackiness. West End: Metro

π (Pf) (15)

GENERAL RELEASE

Darren Aronofsky's pungent debut idles between maths lesson and art class, as Sean Gullete's New York number-cruncher ponders a numerical code behind the holy Hebrew texts. What sustains Pi is the pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra and the louche, too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. West End: ABC Panion Street

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad on a compassionate mission to seek out a young private behind enemy lines - his three brothers have already been killed in combat - and return him home to safety. West End: Plaza. And local cinemas

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15) See The Independent Recommends, above.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham. Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15) See The Independent Recommends, above.

West End: Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsen, Virgin

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)

A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Douglas Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. Kane's screenplay is generally witty and well-observed, but the film cranks what might have been a sublime one-hour teleplay into double its natural length. Still, that's modern romance for you - you can't fit it into tidy boxes, no matter how hard you try. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys. And local cinemas

TITANIC TOWN (15)

All aboard for Troubles-hit Belfast, circa 1972. The IRA and British forces are taking potshots at each other in the street. Civilians are dying in the crossfire. To the rescue comes Julie Walters's concerned local mum, who lobbies for a ceasefire and finds herself caught between the opposing factions. Roger Michell's fact-based fable is well-intentioned and honestly rendered, but it's faintly lightweight, too. For a film implicitly about rage, waste and human passions, it's low on dramatic comph. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

Jamie Blanks's stalk-and-slash romp is a strangely bland and inconsequential bloodbath: fresh-faced teens meeting their grisly end in a drama as cold and schematic as a daytime talk show. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS (18) Another troubling X-ray of American mores from In the Company of Men director Neil LaBute. West End: ABC Piccadilly, Metro

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)

Seasoned players Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan star in a contrived romantic comedy that's zapped out of its old-fashioned rut by a shrewd Internet plot hook: they squabble in daily life and get all gooey on-line. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Comden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-902 0404) ← Piccadily
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm,
8.15pm Hillary and Jackle 2.25pm,
8.20pm Lock, Stock &
Tao Smoking Barrels 1.15pm,
3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm ≈ (P1)
1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322) ⊕ Piccadilly Circus Loved 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Your Friends and Neighbors 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 8.25pm, 9.65pm ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0870-902 0402) & Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Affliction 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Elizabeth 1.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-902 0403) O Leicester (0870-902 0403) & Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus The 39 Steps (1935 Version) 1.10pm, 3.05pm, 5pm, 7.05pm, 9pm Hideous Kinky 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm I Think I Do 4.40pm, 9.10pm Titanic Town 2.25pm, 6.50pm La Vie Revée des Anges 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) & Tottenham Court Road A Bug's Life 4pm Patch Adams 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 5.20pm, 9.05pm Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm Keylan Sopt Mell 1.0pm 9.25pm You've Got M@il 1pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm 6.10pm, 9.15pm

BARBICAN SCREEN Pleasantville 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) ⊕ Sloane Square Festen 2pm, 4.15pm,

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) & Clapham Common Central Station 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 6.30pm The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm You've-Got M@II 4pm, 9pm CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) & Green Park Central Station 1.30pm, 3.45pm, CURZON MINEMA

(0171-369 1723) O Hvde Park Corner/Knightsbridge La Vita è Bella 3pm, 6,30pm, 8,50pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm) O Lekester Square/Tottenham Court Road Clodevatchers 12.15pm, 9.15pm Fester 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Hilary and Jadde 2.15pm The Sticky Pingers of Time 4.45pm La Vita è Bella 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0990-888990) & Leicester Square Meet Joe Black 3.40pm, 7.20pm Patch Adams 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) & Notting Hill Gate The Thin Red Line 1.10pm, m, 7.50pm (0171-734 1506) & Piccadilly

Circus/Leicester Square Perdita Durango 2.30pm, 4.45pm. 9.15pm Your Friends and Neighbors 2pm, 4.15pm, 8.45pm NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill Gate Central Station 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.40pm ODEON CAMPEN TOWN

(08705-050007) & Camden Town A Bug's Life 11.40am, 1.35pm Patch Adams 12.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm. 8.45pm Pleasentville 11.45am. 2.20pm. .5.35pm. 8.25pm Shakespeare in Love 2.55pm, 8.20pm The Thin Red Line 11.55am. 3.25pm, 7.40pm This Year's Love 3.30pm. 5.50pm, 8.50pm You've Got M@II 12.35pm, 5.50pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) → Piccadilly Circus Stepmon 12.35pm, Circus Stepmom 12 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm ODEON KENSINGTON

(08705-050007) & High Street Kensington Patch Adams 12.40pm. 3.35pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Pleasantville 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare In Love 12.25pm, 3.20pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm

La Vita è Belia 1.05pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm You've Got M@li 12.50pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.35pm ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

(08705-050007) & Leicester Square The Thin Red Line 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(08705-050007) ↔ Marble Arch A Bug's Life 1.55pm, 4.05pm Patch Adams 12.55pm, 3.40pm, Patch Adams 12.55pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Pleasantville 12.40pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in Love 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm The Thin Red Line 1.05pm, 4.35pm, 8.10pm You've Got M@II 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

ODEON MEZZANINE 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Slege 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Stepmom 12.30pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

ODEON WEST END 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm This Year's Love 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

PEPSI HRAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) ♦ Piccadilly Circus Everest 4.45pm, 9.05pm L5 (IMAX) 2.40pm, 7pm T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous

(0990-888990) (0990-888990) & Piccadilly Circus A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.15pm Pleasantville 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6pm, 8.30pm The Truman Show 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

PLAZA

(0171-837 8402) ← Russell Square Central Station 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm, Hideous Kinky 1.50pm, 6.35pm Painted Angels 4.10pm, 8.55pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/O Brixton Beloved 8.40pm Central Station 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm La Grande Illusion 1.55pm Pleasantville 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Shakespeare in Love 1.45pm, 6.40pm The Thin Red Line 1.30pm. 4.50pm, 8.10pm This Year's Love 4.20pm. 9.10pm La Vita è Bella 3.35pm, 6.10pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET 6.10pm, 8.40pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) ← Angel The Thin Red Line 3pm, 7.30pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) & Belsize Park Central Station 4.30pm, 9.15pm La Vita è Bella 2.10pm, 6.50pm UCI WHITELEYS

UCI WHITELEYS
(0990-888990)

Beloved 8.40pm A Bug's Life
1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm Madeline
2pm Patch Adams 1pm, 3.40pm,
6.25pm, 9.10pm Pleasantville
12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm,
9.20pm Shakespeare in Love
1.20pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 12.15pm, 4.30pm, 8.20pm This Year's Love 4.20pm, 0.20pm 125 test 5 20ec 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm La Vita è Bella 12.00on, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm You've Got M@il 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm VIRGIN CHELSEA

(0870-907 -0710) O Square Central Station 12.45pm, 3.30pm. 6.10pm. 9pm Pleasantville 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.50pm The Thin Red Line 1pm, 4.30pm, 8pm La Vita è Bella 1.15pm, 3.45pm,

6.30pm, 9.10pm VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) South Kensington Hideous Kinky 2pm. 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Little 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9,20pm Parch Adams 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm. 9pm

Shakespeare in Love 12,50pm. 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm The Thin Red Line 1.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@il 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm

(0870-907 0712) & Piccadilly Circus Pleasantville 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm La Vita è Bella 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm You've Got M@il 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm 5.55pm, 8.45pm VIRGIN TROCADERO

VIRGIN TROCADERO
(0870-907 0716) Piccadilly
Clrcus Beloved 12.50pm,
4.20pm, 8pm A Bug's Life
12.05pm, 2.10pm, 4.25pm,
6.35pm Buhworth 9pm Enemy of
the State 12noon, 2.50pm,
5.40pm, 8.30pm Patch Adams
12.20pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm
Shakespeare in Love 12noon Shakespeare in Love 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Urban Legend 12.50pm, 3,30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@il 12.10pm, 2.50pm,

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) & Leicester
Square Beloved 1.20pm, 4.50pm,
8.20pm A Bug's Life 12.10pm,
2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.25pm
Bulworth 3.55pm, 8.50pm The
Opposite of Sex 12.40pm,
3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Pleasantville 12noon, 3pm,
6.30pm, 9.20pm Pleastical Magic Pleasantville 12noon, 3pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm Practical Magic 12.55pm, 6pm Urban Legend 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Very Bad Things 1.40pm, 4.15pm You've Got Magit 12noon 12noo Got M@il 12noon, 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 3.30pm, 5. 6.20pm, 8.30pm, 9.15pm. 5.40pm.

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ACTON PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) & Park Royal-Beloved 2.40pm, 6.10pm A Bug's Life 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 7.50pm, 10pm Patch Adams 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.50pm 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.50pm, 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 9.30pm, 5hakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 12.40pm, 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 5.20pm, 8pm, 9pm This Year's Love 9.40pm Urban Legend 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm You've Got M@il 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

ODEON (08705-050007) & High Barnet A Bug's Life 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm Patch Adams 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm Pleasantville 12.45pm, 3.30pm, form, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Thin Red Line 12.40pm, 3.50pm, 7.45pm You've Got M@fl 6.20pm, 8.45pm

BECKENHAM ABC (0870-902 0412) BR: Beckenham Junction A Bug's Life 4pm Patch Adams 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm Shakespeare in Lowe 1.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm Writight 11.20am, 6.20pm You've Got M@il 1.45pm, 8.45pm BEXLEYHEATH

CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550)

BR: Bexleyheath A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 5.40pm, 7.50pm Little Voke 2.15pm, 7pm Patch Adams 12noon, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm Pleasantville 1.40pm, 9.45pm Pleasantville 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm Saving Private Ryan 12.25pm, 4.25pm, 8pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Stepanom 1.20pm, 4.15pm, 7pm The Thin Red Line 12.50pm, 4.20pm, 7.50pm This Year's Love 9.50pm Urban Legend 9.35pm 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 2.20pm

2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm BROMLEY ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South A Bug's Life 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm Patch Adams 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Pleasantville 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Thin Red Line 12.25pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm You've Got M@fi 8.40pm

9.35pm La Vita è Bella 4.30pm,

9.15pm You've Got M@計 12.25pm.

ABC (0181-461 1278) BR: Catford Patch Adams 2.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7.30pm CROYDON

CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: West/East Croydon Central Station 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon, A. Bug's Life 5.40pm Lal Baadshah 8pm Patch Adams 5.30pm, 8.10pm You've Got M@N 5.35pm, 8.20pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.30pm, 4.10pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Patch Adams 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm Pleasantville 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Shake-speare in Love 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Thin Red Line. 1.40pm, 5.05pm, 8.25pm This Year's Love 2pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.55pm Urban Legend 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.45pm You've Got M@il 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm M@ll 4.35pm, 9.20pm HAMMERSMITH

DAGENHAM
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592
2020) & Dagenham Heathway A
Bug's Life 1.50pm, 3.55pm,
6.10pm, 8.20pm Patch Adams
1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
Pleasantville 1.30pm, 4.05pm,
6.50pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in
Love 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Thin
Red Line 2pm, 4.50pm, 5.20pm,
8.10pm, 9pm This Year's Love
2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Urban Legend 2.50pm, 5.05pm,
7.20pm, 9.40pm You've Got M@il
1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm DAGENHAM

stone Fire 8.45pm Hum Aapke Hain EALING EALING VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-907 0719) BR/O Ealing Broadway Patch Adams 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.40pm The Thin Red Line 3pm, 7.40pm You've Got M@il 2.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm

EDGWARE BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) Edgware Aa Ab Laut Chalen phone for times Daag phone for times Fire phone for times Kachche
Dhaage phone for times Kuch Kuch
Man Hall phone for times You've Got M@il 5.30pm, 8.20pm Zakhm phone for times

FDMONTON LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) ◆ Tottenham Hale Beloved 7.30om

A Bug's Life 1,45pm, 2,50pm, 4,30pm, 5,30pm, 7,45pm, 10,10pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 8.50pm Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! 5.15pm Patch Adams 12.50pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm Pleasantvälle 1.10pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Saving Private Ryan 2pm, 5.40pm Shakespeare in Love 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 5pm, 7.55pm, 8.30pm This Year's Love 2.10pm, 6.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.50pm Urban Legend 10pm La Vita è Bella 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9pm You've Got M@II 12.40pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm

CORONET (0171-703 4968) BR/O Elephant and Castle Patch Adams 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm This Year's Love 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@il 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm FELTHAM CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-

867 0555) BR: Feltham Aa Ab Laut Chalen 11.10am, 2.35pm, 6.15pm, 9.45pm A Bug's Life 11am, 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.50pm Daag 2.40pm, 9.20pm Hum Aapke Hain Koun...! 11.20am, 6pm Kachche Koun...! 11.20am. 6pm Kachche Dhaage 11.30am, 5.45pm Laa Waris 2.30pm, 9pm Lai Badshah 11.30am, 3pm, 8.10pm, 9.50pm Little Voice: Special Preview 6pm Patch Adams 11.30am. 2pm. 4.30pm, 7pm. -9.30pm Pleasantville 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Saving Private Ryan 1.30pm, 5.10pm, 8.50pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm. 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Love 1pm. 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Stepmom 11.50am, 2.20pm, 7.20pm The Thin Red Line 11.20am, 1pm, 2.40pm, 4.30pm, 6.10pm, 8pm, 9.40pm This Year's Love 11.30am, 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm Urban Legend 5pm, 9.50pm You're Got M@II 11.10am, 1.50pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

FINCHLEY
WARNER VILLAGE FINCHLEY ROAD (0171-604 3059) & Finch-ley Road A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm Patch Adams 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Pleasantville 1.15pm. 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm Shake-speare in Love 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm The Thin Red Line 1pm, 2pm, 4.25pm, 5.30pm, 8pm, 9pm This Year's Love 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm, 1/php, 1.eeepm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Urban Legend 10.25pm You've Got M@II 12.40pm, 3.25pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE NORTH FINCH-LEY (0181-446 9344) ♦ East Finchley/Finchley Central A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Patch Adams 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Pleasantville 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Pleasantville 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Shakespeare in Love 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 12.45pm, 4.40pm, 8.40pm Ur-ban Legend 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm La Viza è Bella 2pm, 7.10pm You've Got M@II 1.05pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) → Golders Green Patch Adams 2.45pm. 5.30pm, 8.20pm

GREENWICH (0181-293 0101) BR Greenwich Pleasantville 3 30pm, 6.10pm, 8 50pm Shakespeare in Love 7pm The Thin Red Line 4.30pm, 8pm You've Got

VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) ◆ Ravenscourt Park A Bug's Life phone for times Jungle 2 Jungle phone for times Patch Adams phone for times Shakespeare in Love phone for times The Thin Red Line phone for times You've Got M(Nil phone

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-902 0413)
Belsize
Park A Bug's Life 1.15pm Jack
Frost 1.05pm Patch Adams
2.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 2.35pm, 5 15pm,
8.15pm You've Got M@il 2pm,
5.40pm, 8.20pm HARROW SAFARI (0181-426 0303) + Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Weald-

Koun..! 5pm Hu Tu Tu 8.45pm Lai Baadshah 1.30pm Zakhm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009)
9 Harrow-on-the-Hill Beloved 6.20pm A Bug's Life 11.20am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Patch Adams 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Pleasantville 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in Love 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The Thin Red Line 12.50pm, 1.50pm, 3.50pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9pm This Year's Love 12.20pm, 3.55pm JS-50pm, 7.40pm, 9pm This Year's Love 12.20pm, 3.55pm, 9.55pm Life 12.50pm, 3.55pm, 9.55pm, 9.55pm Love 12.20pm, 3.25pm, 9.55pm Urban Legend 12noon, 3pm, 5,20pm, 7.50pm, 10.10pm You've Got M@8 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm

HOLLOWAY ODEON (08705-050007) & Hol-ODEON (08/03-030007) & ron-loway Road Beloved 12.35pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm A Bug's Life 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Patch Adams 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Pleasantville 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm The Thin Red Line 12.50pm, 4.20pm, 7.50pm

This Year's Love 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm You've Got M@il 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm ILFORD ODEON (08705-050007) & Gants Hill A Bug's Life 2pm, 4pm, 6.05pm Patch Adams 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Pleasantville 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Shakespeare in Love 8.05pm There's Something About Mary 5.50pm, 8.35pm The

Thin Red Line 12.35pm, 4pm. 7.30pm You've Got M@il 2.40pm TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) ♦ Kilburn La Vita è Bella 7pm, 9.15pm

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston Jack Frost 12.50pm, 3.05pm Patch Adams 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm; 5.20pm, 8.05pm You've Got M@II 2.20pm. 5.30pm, 8.10pm MUSWELL KILL

gate A Bug's Life 2.15pm, 4.15pm Patch Adams 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 1.25pm. 4.35pm, 7.50pm This Year's Love PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Beloved 5.05pm. 8.30pm A Bug's Life 5pm, 7pm How Stella Got her Groove Back

9.05 Patch Adams 4pm, 6.30pm,

ODEON (08705-050007) - High-

9pm Pleasantville 4,10pm, 6,40pm, 9,10pm The Thin Red Line 4,55pm, 8,15pm You've Got M@il 4,20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm PURLEY ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley Patch Adams 5.40pm, 8.20pm Pleasantville 5.10pm, 7.55pm

ABC (0870-902 0401) @ Putney Bridge, BR: Putney, Patch Adams 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Shake-speare in Love 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm You've Got M@il 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND OPEON (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond Patch Adams 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Shakespeare in Love 12,30pm, 3,20pm, 6,10pm, 9pm The Thin Red Line 12.50pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm

OPEON STUDIO (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond A Bug's Life 2:30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm Little Voice 9.30pm Pleasantville 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm This Year's Love 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm, You've Got M@N 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm

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ROMFORD ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford Patch Adams 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Pleasantville 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm You've Got M@il 2.35pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705-050007) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2pm. 2.30pm, 4.20pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.40pm Patch Adams 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Pleasantville 12.20pm. 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8,30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm The Thin Red Line 12.30pm. 4pm, 7.30pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Urban Legend 9pm You've Got M@ii 12.15pm. 3pm. 5.45pm, 8.20pm

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Patch Adams 5.20pm, 8.20pm wing Private Ryan 7.30pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Cricklewood A Bug's Life 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 7pm Patch Adams Ipm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Pleas-antville 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.20pm This Year's Love 9.15pm You've Got M@il 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/9-Stratford East A Bug's Life 1,55pm Patch Adams 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm. 8.55pm Pleasantville 12.50pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm You've Got M@il 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm. 6.20pm, 8.50pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatharn Hill Patch Adams 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Shakespeare In Love 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm This Year's

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Streatham Hill/O Brixton A Bug's Life 2,10pm, 4.10pm Dobermann 1,50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 6.05pm, 8.35pm Pleasantville 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 12.40pm. 4.10pm. 7.40pm You've Got M@il 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton/ Morden A Bug's Life 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 8.30pm Dancing At Lughnasa 6,30pm Little Voice 2pm. 7pm Madeline 2,15pm Parch Adams 12,50pm, 3,45pm, 6,30pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 12.35pm, 4.15pm, 8pm This Year's Love 4.30pm, 9.20pm You've Got M@il 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) @ Turnpike Lane. Patch Adams 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm This Year's Love 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Urban Legend 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.40pm **SURREY QUAYS**

UCI (0990-888990) ← Surrey Quays A Bug's Life 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6pm. 8.40pm Dancing At Lughnasa 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Patch Adams 12.50pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Pleasantville 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.20pm, 9pm eare in Love 1.20pm, 4pm, 5.40pm, 9.20pm The Thin Red Line 12.40pm, 4.15pm, 8pm You've Got M@II 12.30pm, 3.20pm. 6.10pm, 8.50pm

ODEON (08705-050007) ← Uxbridge A Bug's Life 1.10pm, 3.20pm. 5.30pm Patch Adams 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The Thin Red Line 7.40pm

WALTHAMSTON ABC (0870-902 0474) A Waltham. stow Central Elizabeth 8.15pm Patch Adams 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10am. 5.15am. 8.10pm You've Got M@il 1.55pm, 5.05pm, 8.15pm

WALTON-ON-THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton-on-Thames Hideous Kinky 3pm, 5,40pm The Thin Red Line 7,40pm You've Got M@il 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham Patch Adams 3.40pm. 6.05pm. 8.30pm You've Got M@il 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

WILLESDEN BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) Willesden Green Shake ove 6.30pm, 9pm Small Soldlers

WIMBLEDON ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O-Wimbledon Antz 11am A Bug's Life 1 10pm Elizabeth 11am Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 11am Patch Adams 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Pleasantville 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Shakespeare in Love 2.55pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Thin Red Line 12.50pm, 4.10pm, 7 40pm The Truman Show 11am You've Got M@il 12.25pm, 3.10pm,

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) O Turnpike Lane Aa Ab Laut Chalen 5.30pm Daag 2pm Kachche

ABC (0181-989 3463) © South Woodford Patch Adams 2 40pm, 5.50pm. 8.20pm Shakespeare Love 2.40pm, 5.30pm 8.10pm You've Got 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm

MOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Pleasantville , 5.35pm, 8.20pm Urban Legend 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA

TONDON ICA CINEMA The Mall. SW1 (0171-930 3647) Hamam: The Turkish Bath (NC) Spm The Eclipse (NC) 6.30pm The House (NC) 7pm. 9pm Le Amiche (NC) 9.15pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232) The Negotiator (15) 2.30pm Love Affair (PG) 6pm Velvet Goldmine (18) 6.20pm Bleak Moments (PG) 7.30pm Lock, Stock & Tiwo Smok ing Barrels (18) 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road, N2 (0181-444 6789) La Vita è Bella (PG) 1pm. 3,40pm, 6.20pm. 9pm

WC2 (0171-437 8181) Ronin (15) 1,30pm Rush Hour (15) 4pm 54 (15) 6.30pm The Exorcist (25th niversary Rerelease) (18) 9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp Road, W6 (0171-420 0100) Prisoner of the Mountains (Kavkazski Plennik) (15) 6.45pm + The Thief 8.40pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) La Classe de Neige (15) 7.15pm Shakespeare in Love (15)

DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-602503) The Apple (Sib) (PG) 2.15pm, 6.45pm Central Station (15) 4.15pm, 8.45pm

CUBE CINEMA (0114-907 4191) The Doom Generation (18) 8pm WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Perdita Durango (18) 6pm, 8.30pm Central Station (15) 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Festen (15) 12pm, 7.15pm Central Station (15) 2.15pm, 9.20pm Solaris (PG) 4.20pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Fire (15) 7.30pm La Vie Revée des Anges ((18) 8pm

IPSWICH IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) The Remains of the Day (U) 2.30pm Computer Animation (NC) 6pm, 8.15pm Pecker (18) 6.15pm, 8.30pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) The Opposite of Sex (18) 2.30pm, 5.45pm The Philadelphia Story (U) 8.15pm

PLYMOUTH PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) La Classe de Neige (15) 8pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON Virgin (0541-555145); A Bug's Life (U); Jack Frost (PG); Jungle 2 Jungle (PG); Madeline (U); Patch Adams (12); Pleasantville (12); Saving Private Ryan (15); Shakespeare in Love (15); The Thin Red Line (15); This Year's Love (18); You've Got M@il (PG)

CARDIFF UCI 12 (0870-603 4567); Antz (U): Jack Frost (PG): Little Voice (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Madeline (U); Patch Adams (12); Pleasantville (12); The Prince of Egypt (U): Saving Private Ryan (15): Shakespeare in Love (15): The Thin Red Line (15): This Year's Love (18): The Truman Show (PG); Urban Legend (18); Very Bad Things (18); La Vita è Bella (PG) You've Got M@il (PG)

ODEON (08705-050007): A Bug's Life (U); Elizabeth (15); Jack Frost (PG); Madeline (U); Les Misérables (12); Mulan (U); Patch Adams (12); Pleasantvi (12): Shakespeare in Love (15); Small Soldiers (PG); The Thin Red Line (15); You've Got M@il (PG)

CINEWORLD (01582-400705): leloved (15): A Bug's Life (U) Dilwale Dufnania Le Jayenge (PG): Dil Se (PG): Jack Frost (PG); Laa Waris (PG): Lai Badshah (PG): Little Voice (15); Madeline (U) Parch Adams (12): Pleasantville (12): Saving Private Ryan (15); The Secret Garden (U); Shakespeare in Love (15); Stepmom (12); The Swan Princess (U); The Thin Red Line (15); This Year's Love (18); Titank (12);

Urban Legend (18); Very Bad Things (18); You've Got M@II (PG) VIRGIN (0541-550516): A Bug's Life (U): Enemy of the State (15); Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehte Hain (PG): Jack Frost (PG): Little Voice : Madeline (U): Patch Adams : Pleasantville (12): Saving Private Ryan (15); Shakespeare in Love (15); Stepmom (12); The Thin Red Line (15); This Year's Love (18); Thumbelina (U); Urban Legend (18); You've Got M@il (PG)

POOLE UCI 10 (0870-603 4567) A Bug's Life (U); Dancing at Lugh-nasa (PG): Jack Frost (PG); Aa Ab Laut Chalain (PG); Little Voice (15): Madeline (U): The Parent Trap (PG) Patch Adams (12); Pleasantvill (12); Saving Private Ryan (15); Shakespeare in Love (15); Small Soldiers (PG): Stepmom (12): The Thin Red Line (15): This Year's Love (18): Urban Legend (18):

You've Got M@il (PG) PORTSMOUTH ODEON (08705-050007): A Bug's Life (U): Dr Dolittie (PG): Made (12): Small Soldiers (PG): The Thin Red Line (15): This Year's Love

(18); You've Got M@fl (PG) UCI 6 (0870-603 4567): A Bug's Life (U): Dancing at Lughnas (PG): Little Voice (15): Madelin (U); Patch Adams (12); Shake

speare in Love (15); There's Some-thing About Mary (15); The Thin Red Line (15); This Year's Love (18). READING SHOWCASE (0118-974 7711)

Beloved (15); A Bug's Life (U); Lit-tle Voice (15); Madeline (U): Patch Adams (12): Pleasantville (12): Saving Private Ryan (15); Shakespeare In Love (15); The Thin Red Line (15); This Year's Love (18); Urban Legend (18); You've Got M@II (PG) SOUTHAMPTON

ODEON LEISURE WORLD (01703-222111); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Beloved (15); Blade (18); A Bug's Life (U); Don't Go Breaking my Heart (PG): Dr Dolltde (PG); Enemy of the State (15); Godzilla (PG): Jack Frost (PG): Little Veloc (15); Lett Enemy (PG); Little Voice (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Made-line (U); Mulan (U); Patch Adams (12): Pleasantuille (12): Saving Pri-vate Ryan (15): Shakespeare in Love (15): Small Soldiers (PG): There's Something About Mary (15): The Thin Red Line (15): This Year's Love (18): Urban Legend (18): Very Bad Things (18); You've Got M@il (PG)

SWINDON CINEWORLD (01793-420710): A Bug's Life (U); Elizabeth (15); Enemy of the State (15); Holy Man (PG); Jack Frost (PG): Kachche Dhaage (PG): Little Voice (15): Madeline (U): Patch Adams (12): Pleasantville (12); Saving Private Ryan (15); The Secret Garden (U); Shakespeare in Love (15): Stepmom (12); The Sw Princess (U); The Thin Red Line (15); This Year's Love (18); Titanic (12); Urban Legend (18); La Vita è Bella (PG); You've Got M@il (PG)

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket avallability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. Seats at all prices) — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees -- [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

• AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salleri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 494 5372) BR/O Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm. £7.50-£30. PANIMAL CRACKERS Stage ver-

ion of the Marx Brothers' classic from the Royal Exchange Theatre. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ← Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm. E9.50-E30.

DART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb and Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm,
 [7][1] 5pm. £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.) BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lav-

ish family musical based on Dis-ney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy-tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ⊕ Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm. £18.50-£35. 150 mins. ● BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus-

■ BLOOD ENOTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)
■ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd.—Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm. £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

● BUDDY Musical biog-show trac-ing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ⊕ Covent Garden, Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£30, half price Fri mats. 160 mins.

I CATS Lloyd Webber's amsical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) ◆ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm. £10.50-£35. 165 mins.) CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Nicola Davies star in this hit Broad-

Nicota Davies star in this mi proat-way musical, Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing X. Mon-5at 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee). 130 mins. ● THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company's keenly-paced theatrical history lesson. Criterion Piccadilly Circus. W1

(0171-369 1747) ← Picc Circ. Tue 8pm. £10-£25. 120 mins. DOPENHAGEN Drame from Michael Frays about the discovery of the atom. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/ cc 344 4444) ← Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] 2.30pm. £10-£30, 145 mins

• DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN Mark Little stars in this witty and wise comedy about the sexes. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri & Sat 6pm & 8.45pm. £5-£25, concs available.

OR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Hen-son Puppets. London Apollo Ham-mersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) O Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm. £12.50-£32.50. 150 mins.

D GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film, starring Darren Day. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) & Covent Garden Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mins.

I GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE Michael Pennington and William struction of the downfall of the celebrated playwright. Gleigud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065)

◆ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £7.50-£29.50.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Dakhry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ♦ Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm. Sat 8.15pm. [4] 2.30pm. [7] 5pm. £12-£29.50. 110 mins.

MACBETH Rufus Sewell and Saly Dexter portray thwarted ambition. Oueen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040/cc 344 4444) Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 17 2.30pm, ends 5 Jun. £10.50-£28.50.

• THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison Steadman and Julia Sawatha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral Vaudeville Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/⊕ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7] 3pm. £8-£27.50. 120 mins.

• LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm. £7-£35. 195 mins.

• MISS SAIGON Musical which re-sets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 50601 O Covent Garden, Mon Sat 7.45pm. [4][7] 3pm. £8.50-£35.

• THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's evergreen whodunnit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm. [3] 2.45pm. [7] 5pm. £10-£24.50. 135 mins.

OKLAHOMA! Maureen Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed pro-duction of Rodgers and Bammerstein's cowboy versus farmhand musical. Lyceum Wellington Street, WC2 (0870-606 3446) O Charing X/Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, ends 26 Jun. £10-£35, 180 mins.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical, Her Majesty's Hay-market, SW1 (0171-494 5400/ cc 344 4444) ⊕ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45 pm, [4][£10-£35. 150 mins. [4][7] 3pm.

PRENT Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern day New York Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) @ Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 3pm. £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins. RICHARD III Robert Lindsay stars as the historical villain. Savoy Strand. WC2 (01.71-836 8888/cc 01.71-

836 0479) BR/O Charing X. Mon-

Sat 7.30pm. [7] 2.30pm. ends 27 Mar. £10-£27.50.

ROYAL NATIONAL TREATRE COTTESLOE: The Riot Nick Darke's drama from Kneehigh Theatre, in rep. today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 28 Apr.

 OLIVIER: Trottus and Cressida Shakespeare's reinvention of Home: in rep, tonight 7pm, ends 19 May, 150 mins. Olivier, £9-£27. Cottesioe: £12-£18. South Bank. \$£1 (0171-452 3000) BR/O Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE PIT: Goodnight Children
Everywhere An evacuee returns home at the end of the war and after the death of his parents in Richard Nelson's moving drama, in rep tonight 7.15pm. ends 27 Apr. The Pit: E11-E18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) BR/⊕ Barbican.

♦ YOUNG VIC: Bartholomew Fair Jonson's intensely theatrical drama in a vibrant revival. In rep, tonight 7.15pm. RSC at the Young Vic. £14-£20. The Cut. £1 (0171-928 6363) BR/O Waterloo.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

Hit 1970s musical featuring leg-endary songs by the Bee Gees. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) & Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm. £10-£32.50, 135 mins. I SHOOGHEADED PETER Junk

opera, featuring the Tiger Lillies. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 10 Apr. £5-£18. • SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW Slava

Polounine returns to London with his smeric show that takes all ages back to the realms of childish de Piccarilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2,30pm, £10-£27.50. • STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew

Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road. SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/© Victoria, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mlns. TRUST Gary Mitchell's explosive

new drama. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7pm, ends 3 Apr. £10, concs £5. ● VASSA Maxim Gorky's tale of a matriarch and ber downtrodden fam-The state of the s

drama examines ideas of ghosts and angals. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ↔ Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 3.30pm. £5-£25. 90 mins.

● WEST SIDE STORY New production of Bernstein's classic musi-cal, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987) & Leic Sq/Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm. 518 50.525 160 mins £18,50-£35, 160 mins WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

Lloyd Webber's musical based on the

film of the same name. Aidwych Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000) + Holborn. Mon-Sat 7,45pm, [5][7] 3pm. £10-£32.50. 120 mins. THE WOMAN IN BLACK SUSSE

Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) O Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm. £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

LMEIDA THEATRE S Maria Brandauer in Esther Vilar's tantalising new drama. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 3pm, ends 27 Mac £9.50-£19.50, concs available Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359

ARTS THEATRE Howard Crabtree's When Pigs Fly Gay musical poking fur at American culture. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 6pm & 8.30pm, Sun 6pm, ends 3 Apr. £20-£25 concs £15. Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334) & Leicester Square.

HACKNEY EMPIRE Girls' Night Out Hen-night comedy by Dave Simpson. Mon-Sat 8pm. ends 17 Mar. £7.50-£14.50. Mare Street. E8 (0181-985 2424) BR: Hackney

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Gob Ex-Take That good-looker Jason Orange stars in this blistering but comic attack on the bastions of art and culture. Tue-Sun 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 3.30pm, ends 18 Apr. £12-£14, concs £9. Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916) & Angel.

PLEASANCE THEATRE Blue Heart Caryl Churchill's comedy double-bill deals with family disruption and reunion. Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 5pm, ends 21 Mar. Tonight all seats £5. Carpenters Mews. off North Road. N7 (0171-609 1800) Caledonian

RICHMOND THEATRE Things We Do For Love Belinda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 20 Mar. £8-£21. The Green. Richmond, Surrey (0181-940 0088)

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

BATH THEATRE ROYAL Sieuth Peter Bowles and Michael Maloney star in Anthony Shaffer's ingenious and inventive thriller. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, ur-Sat 8pm, ends 20 Mar. £9-£22.50. Sawclose (01225-448844)

CORN EXCHANGE, BEDFORD The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forwards rough the Bard's 37 plays. Tonight 7.30pm. £11.50-£12.50, concs £8.50-£9.50. St Paul's Square (01234-269519)

HIPPODROME THEATRE Phantom of the Opera Tour of Andrew Lloyd Webber's huge, melodramatic hit musical. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 22 May. £10-£30, concs available. St Augustines Parade (0117-929 9444) NEW VIC STUDIO Dusty Fruit Com-

edy about a haunted house teetering

perilously on the edge of a rapidly crumbling eliff. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, ends 20 Mar. 29, concs

E6. King Street (0117-987 7877)

WORTHING CONNAUGHT THEATRE On The Razzle Tom Stoppard's farce is set in 1850s Vienna, Tue-Sat 7.30pm mats Wed & Sat 2pm, ends 20 Mar. £5.50-£10.50, concs available Union Place (01903-235333)

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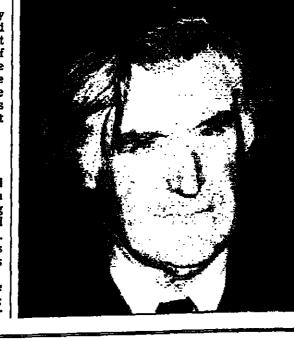
FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Cali INJECTED WITH a powerful dose of 20th-century spice through the poetic wizardry of the late Ted Hughes (right), Ovid's epic tale is now being brought to our attention in the RSC's stage production of Tales From Ovid. Having worked closely with the late Poet Laureate, Tim Supple directs what is set to be an intelligent and accessible dramatisation of these ancient stories chronicling the metamorphosis of gods and heroes. Their enactment should do for Ovid what Stoppard did for Houseman, and Bennett for Kafka. Swan Theatre, Stratford (01789-295 623) from 8 Apr

Last Call

YOU CAN CATCH London soul man Lynden David Hall on a UK tour this month, fresh from his nomination in the Best Male category of the Brits Awards. The young starlet is one to watch with his luxurious harmonies and varied repertoire from Nu Classic Soul to American R'n'B. There have already been two hit singles from last year's debut album, Medicine 4 My Pain, prompting critics to proffer that he could be the new Al Green.

Riverside, Newcastle (0191-261 4386) tonight; The Junction, Cambridge (01223 511511) tomorrow; Wedgewood Rooms, Portsmouth (01705 863911) 18 Mar



EXHIBITIONS THEATRE Happy Days The hit TV series live on stage. Mon-Thur 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm.

BRISTOL

ends 20 Mar, £8-£18.50, concs available. Park Place (01222-878889) SHERMAN THEATRE The Tempest Hard-edged production of the late great familiasy, 16 & 17 Mar, 8pm, 1.30pm. £8, concs £6. Sengheny-dd Road (01222-230451)

EVERYMAN THEATRE Smoke Joe's Cafe The rock'n'roll hit-mak-ers celebrated in a musical revue that includes "Jailhouse Rock". Mon-Thur 7.45pm, Fri & Sat 6pm & 9pm, ends 20 Mar. £7.50-£20. Regent Street (01242-572573)

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE Loot Michael Elphick and Letitia Dean star in Joe Orton's black comedy. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 5.30pm & 8.30pm. ends 20 Mar. £6.50-£21. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

COLCHESTER MERCURY THEATRE The La-dykilers Stage adaptation of the 1955 Ealing Comedy classic about a group of robbers who use the house of a lit tle old lady to plan a job. Mon-Wed 7.30pm. Thur-Sat 8pm. ends 27 Mar. £7.50-£15.50, concs available. Balkerne Gare (01206-573948)

EASTBOURNE CONGRESS THEATRE Barnum Roll up for Peter Duncan's performance in this classic musical. Tue-Sat 7.30cm mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 20 Mar. £8-£19.50, concs available. Compton Street (01323-412000)

EXETER PHOENIX Living Like Victor Whodunnit with physical comedy from Hospolioi, 16 & 17 Mar, 8pm. £8. concs £6. Bradninch Place, Gandy Street (01392-667080) NORTHCOTT THEATRE Burled Alive Philip Osmert's play about a photographer who captures a horrific execution on film, Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat Bpm, ends 27 Mar. £7-£15. Stocker Road (01392-493493)

EXETER

YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Earth and Sky Thriller about a librarian who until there is a murder and his murky past is revealed, starring Samantha Janus. Mon-Thur 7.45pm, Fri & Sau 8pm, mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 20 Mar. £10-£20.50, concs available.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD OLD TOWN HALL ARTS CENTRE Electra Sophocles' story of torrid samily conflict. 16 & 17 Mar. 8pm. £7, concs £5. High Street (01442-228091)

Millbrook (01483-440000)

THE COURTYARD Kissing Sid James Adult comedy about a couple trying to revive their flagging romance. Tonight 7.30pm. £8.50, concs £7. Edgar Street (01432-359252) NOLSEY THEATRE The Glass

Menagerie Tennessee Williams' por-trait of a faded Southern belle. Tue-Fri

7.45pm, Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sai

2.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £5-£14, concs available Civic Drive (01473-253725) HAYMARKET THEATRE A Pas-sionate Woman Kay Mellor's com-ic and poignant comedy about a Leeds mum. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, mat Wed 2.30pm, ends 20 Mar. £6.50-

£14.50, concs available Belgrave Gate (0116-253 9797) THEATRE ROYAL Antony and Cleopatra Cathy Tyson stars in this new production by the English Shakespeare Company, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 20 Mar. £3-£15.50, concs available Theatre Street (01603-630000)

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE The Welf Conor McPherson's haunting drama. Mon-Thur, Sat 7.30pm, mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 20 Mar. £8-£19.50. concs available Beaumont Street (01865-798600)

KEY THEATRE A Touch of Danger Tense thriller by Francis Durbridge. Mon-Thur 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, mat Thur 2.30pm, ends 20 Mar. £8-£10.50, concs available Embardment Road (01733-552439)

SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE The House of Bernarda Alba Rederico Garcia Lorea's study of conflict be-tween a grieving mother and her daughters. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, mat Thur 2.30pm, ends 20 Mar. E8-E15, concs available Maithouse Lane (01722-320333) STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

THE OTHER PLACE The Dispute Marivaux's quasi-scientific drama, directed by Neil Barlett Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm ends 20 Mar. £10-£19, concs at able Southern Lane (01789-295623)

WOLVERHAMPTON (01902-552055)

CLASSICAL

BRIGHTON BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART LONDON Retrospective of largely figurative paintings, Mon, Tue, Thur-Sat 10am-spm, Sun 2pm-spm, ends 28 Mar, free. Church Street (01273-29090)

ARNOLFINI Accelerator Work by in-ternational contemporary artists, in-cluding Hilary Lloyd, Ako Sasao and Suzy Spence, Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-60m, ends 28 Mar, free. Narrow Quay (0117-929 9191)

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM Picasso and Matisse Prints, drawings, and ceramics from the museum's col-

lection. Ends 11 Apr. Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary American Prints Etchings of the East Coast, lithographs, woodcuts and screenprints. Ends 2 May, free. Remorandt and the Passion The museum's outstanding collection of prints. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 20 Jun, free. Trumpington Street (01223-332900)

ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MU-SEUM The Art of Hilda Carline: Mrs Stanley Spencer The first major exhibition dedicated to the paintings of Spencer's first wife, Mon-Sat 10am-Spm. ends 3 May, free. Queen Street (01392-265858)

LONDON BARBICAN ART GALLERY Africa BARBICAN ART GALLERY Africa by Africa: A Photographic View Images from sub-Saharan Africa. Picasso and Photography: The Dark Mirror Works exploring the Spanish master's relationship with photography. Mon. Thur-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tue 10am-5.45pm, Wed 10am-7.45pm, Sun 12noon-6.45pm, ends 29 Mar. E5, concs E3, from Mon-Fri E3 after 5pm. Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141) @ Barbican

DESIGN MUSEUM Mini: 40 Years of a Design Icon Mini's designed by celebrities mark the 40th anniversary of the vehicle. Ends 9 May. Modern Britain 1927-1939 A study on the important period after the Great War including the work of Francis Bacon, Paul Nash and Barbara Hepworth. Phone for times, ends 18 Jul. £5.25, concs £4 (to mu-seum). Shad Thames, SE1 (0171-378 6055) + Tower Hill

NATIONAL GALLERY Portraits by Ingres Exhibition of paintings and drawings by the 19th century French artist. Mon & Tue. Thur-Sun 10am-6om. Wed 10am-10pm, ends 25 Apr. £6, concs £4. Wed 7pm-10pm. £4. Orazio Gentileschi at the Court of Charles I Rare exhibition exploring the work of the 17th-century Itali artist. Mon & Tue. Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-9pm, ends 23 May, free. Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-

747 2885) & Charing Cross ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Monet in the 20th Century Eighty paintings made in the 26 years after 1900.
Mon-Thur, Sun 9am-6pm, Fri & Sat 9am-10pm, ends 18 Apr. £9, concs £6, child (12-18) £3, child (8-11) £1.50. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-300 8000) & Green Park

TATE GALLERY Art Now 17: Thomas Demand's Tunnel Looped film of travel in a tunnel explores urban life. Ends 25 Apr. fre Works on Paper and Paintings: Francis Bacon Paintings and draw-ings previously kept secret. Ends 2 May, free.

Pharmacy: Damlen Hirst Installa-tion exploring modern medicine. Ends 2 May, free. Scrapheap Services: Michael Landy Installation of mannequins. Ends 2 May, Free. Jackson Pollock Major painting retrospective of Abstract Ex-pressionist works. Ends 6 Jun. 27.50. concs £5, family £19 (Firstcal 0870 842 2233 + £1.60 booking fee). Turner's Last Papers 1820-51 Examining the paper Turner used for his later work. Ends 13 Jun, free. Dangerous Liasons: Barbara Hep-worth and Ben Nicholson Exam-ining the cross fertilisation of the couple. Ends 11 Jul, free. Dangerous Liasons: Rodin and Gwen John Explores the relationship 10am-5.50pm, ends 11 Jul, free Milibank, SW1 (0171-887 8000) ◆ Pimilco

NORWICH NORWICH ARTS CENTRE India 50 - Working People: Sebastian Sal-gado The acclaimed photographer portrays the harsh reality of Indian life. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-4pm, ends 8 Apr, free. Reeves Yard. St Benedict's Street (01603-660352)

ST IVES
ST IVES TATE GALLERY Displays
1998-9: Partnerships and Practice
Paintings and ceramics from the
second half of the century plus a selection of contemporary work. Quolt Montserrar: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture linking St Ives with Montserrat. Mon-Sat 11 am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY Disasters of War: Callot, Goya, Dix Selections from three artists' war etchings. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 20 Mar, free, Lichfield Street

BLACKHEATH HALLS James Allen's Girls School Choirs and Orchestra/Bond Verdi's Requiem. Tonight 463 0100) BR Blackheath.

ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE The

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL BBC Concert Orchestra/Wordsworth Sibelius's Violin Concerto and Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade. Tonight 7.30pm, £7.50-£22.50. South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/@ Waterloo.

WIGMORE HALL Catherine King/Charles Daniels French 17th-century countly airs. Tonight 7.30pm. £7-£14. Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) & Bond Street.

SHELDONIAN THEATRE Oxford Philomusica/Papadopoulos Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.5 with Schubert's Symphony No.9. Tonight 8pm. £8.50-£28. Broad Street (01865-798600)

OPERA

LONDON COLISEUM Parsifal The ENO with a new staging of Wag final work: Today 5pm, ends 20 Mar. E8-E60. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) & Leicester Square.

DANCE

HARLOW HARLOW PLAYHOUSE RUC Dance: Jus Eazy Innovative regge dance. Tonight 8pm. £8. concs £6-£7, The High (01279-431945)

HORSHAM ARTS CENTRE Richard Alston Dance Company: Triple Bill Including the new work Red Run. £8. concs £6. North Street (01403-268689)

SADLER'S WELLS AT THE PEA-COCK THEATRE Paco Pena Fiamenco presents La Musa Gitana World class flamenco. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 3pm, ends 20 Mar. £7.50-£35. Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) O Holborn.

NEW VICTORIA THEATRE Rambers Dance Company: Cruel Garden Evo-cation Lorca's life and work through dance and song. 16-18 Mar. 8pm. £7.50-£19.50. Peacocks Arts & En-

LITERATURE WILL SELF Self reads from Tough Tough Toys for Rough Rough Boys. Arnolfini Bookshop Narrow Quay

(0117-929 9191) Tonight 7pm.

BATH THE FEZ COMEDY CLUB AT CADIL-LACS Featuring Colin Murphy, Ed-die Bannon and Jack Russell, Tonight 8pm. £6, concs £5. Walcot Street (01225-464241)

THE COMEDY STORE With Steve Gribbin, Paul Thorne, Martin Coyote, Lee Hurst, Boothby Fraffoe and Sean Meo. Tonight 8pm, £11, concs £7. Oxendon Street, SW1 (0171-344 0234) O Piccadilly Circus. **PORTSMOUTH** CRAIG CHARLES AT WEDGEWOOD

LONDON

ROOMS The TV star's solo stand-up show for adults only. Tonight 8pm, £7,50. Albert Road, Southsea (01705-863911) CRAZY CHICKEN COMEDY CLUB AT MACKENZIES Rob Hitchmough, Canadian comic Phil Nichol and

MC Dave Jones, Tonight 8,30pm, £5. Wood Street (01672-S41015) **CLUBS**

BRIGHTON SUSST AT THE HONEY CLUB Indie extravaganza. Tonight 10pm-2am, free. King's Road Arches (01273-202807)

TUESDAYS AT CAFE BLUE Fea turing live Latin music. Tonight Spm-Tam, free. The Old Fire Station, ver Street (0117-940 5626)

FEET FIRST AT CAMDEN PALACE
Big beat and indie played by
Jonathon and Eko. Tonight 10pm2am. E5. Camden High Street, NW1
(0171-387 0428) & Camden Town.

LONDON

EVENTS

LONDON CAN THE HUMAN BRAIN UN-DERSTAND THE HUMAN BRAIR! Colin Blakemore, Dr Jonathan Miller and Susan Blackmore discuss human aviour ICA The Mail SW1 (0171-930 3647) & Charing Cross. Tonight 6.30pm, phone for prices.

OUR PAINTED PAST: THE WALL PAINTINGS OF ENGLAND Scam-inines the history of English freecom and murals. Westminster Abbey The Sanctuary, Victoria Street SW1 (0171-222 5152) • Westminster. Mon-Ed Sam-4,45pm, Sat Sam 2.45pm. ends 11 Apr. £5, concs £3.

MUSIC

CAMBRIDGE LYNEDEN DAVID HALL The acclaimed funity-acoustic soul singer. The Junc-tion Clifton Road (01223-511511) Tonight 9.30pm, phone for prices

ROGER TAYLOR The drummer of Queen tours his aloum, Electric Fire. Coal Exchange Cardiff Bay (01222-330220) Tonight, 8.30pm. £10.

CHELTENHAM

Street (01242-516645). Tonight 8pm. phone for prices. EBBW VALE PAUL JONES AND DAVE KELLY British blues veterans. Beaufort Theatre Beaufort Hill (01495-

WISEMEN Ex-Pogue Spider Stacy with his new band. The Attic High

LONDON THE ULTRA MONTANES Indie glam-pop outfit. Camden Palace Camden High Street NW1 (0171-387 0428) & Camden Town. Tonight 10pm. £5, concs £3.

BERT JANSCH, GLEN MATLOCK -

302112) Tonight 7.30pm, £8-£9.50.

BAND. MARTIN STEPHENSON, RUNNING ON FUMES, VISUAL MINISTRY GOSPEL CHOIR Benefit for the British Institute for Brain Injured Children, Hanover Grand Hanover Street W1 (0171-499 7977) Oxford Circus, Tonight 7pm, £12.50. THE LANTERNS Beats and vocals from Gina and Sylvia Rae. The

Improv Tottenham Court Road W1:

(0171-387 2414) @ Warren Street.

Tonight 8pm. CLEFF RICHARD Sir Cliff plays his 40th anniversary season. Royal Albert Half Kensington Gore SW7 (0171-589 8212) & High Street Kensington. Tonight 6.45pm. £20-£35.

E-17 Brian Harvey rejoins the R&B

swing trio. Shepherd's Bush Empire. Shepherd's Bush Green W12 (0171-771 2000) & Shepherd's Bush. Tonight 7pm. £15. SOUTHAMPTON
GLENN TILBROOK The South London songsmith plays Squeeze favourites. The Brook Portswood Road (01703-555366) Tonight Spm.;

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

phone for prices.

BRENTWOOD

ish saxophone veteran. Hermit Gub henfield Road (01277-218897) CAMBRIDGE NIGEL CLARK QUINTET The ind-

vidualistic contemporary guittefit. Boat Race East Road (01223-508533)

ionight 8.30pm, £8, mems £5.

SPIKE ROBINSON QUARTET Get-

AXEL ZWINGENBERGER The dri ving blues and boogie-woogle pianist. Pizza Express Earl Street (01622-683548) Tonight 8pm. £10.

JOHN CRITCHINSON, DILL KAZZ Pi-ano and bass-led modern jezz. 60 Club Lots Road, 5W10 (0171-35 5953) & Fulham Broads 9.30pm & 12midnight, £4.95.

powered free jazz trio. British Music Information Centre Stratford Place W1 (0171-499 8567) + Bond Street, Tonight 7.30pm, £4, concs £3 JAVINY SMITH The original Hammood man, Jazz Café Porleway NWT (0171 916 6060) & Camden Town, 16-20

AXEL DORNER/CHRIS BURN/ ALEXANDER FRANGENHEIM TUP

ALAN BARNES/DAVE NEWTON TRIO The mainstream partnership play from the CD, Below Zero. Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street. W1 (0171-439 8722) @ Tottenham Court Road, Tonight 8,30pm. £10.

NNENNA FREELON Accidined con-

Mar. 8.30pm. £16, adv £13.50.

temporary jazz vocalist from the US. Ronnie Scott's Frith Street, Wi (0171-439 0747) & Leicester-Square 16-20 Mar, 9pm & 11.30pm £12, mems £4. TEWKESBURY ROCK SALT AND NAILS FOR TOCK

ers from the Shetlands. Roses

atre Sun Street (01684-295074) Tonight 7.30pm. £7, concs £6.



(97.6-99.8MHz FM)

6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.

12.00 Jo Whiley. 2.00 Mark Rad-cliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45

8.00 Stave Lamacq - the Evening

Newsbeat, 6,00 Dave Pearce.

Session, 10-00 Digital Update.

Breezeblock 2.00 Clive Warren.

6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah

Kennady. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00

Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart.

5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Alan

8.00 Nigel Ogden, 9.00 Paddy in

Pick of the Day. 10.30 Richard Alinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich.

Freeman: Their Greatest Bits.

Day. 10.00 The Directors. See

the Smoke. See Pick of the

3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

10.30 Artist of the Week,

12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-

cert. John Toal presents music for

oboe and piano in a concert given

on Sunday in Belfast's Waterfront

Drake (piano). Harty: A la cam-

Sonata No 2 in C. Julian Ander-

mann, arr Ferguson: Three Duos.

Beethoven: Variations on Mozart's

son: The Bearded Lady. Schu-

'La ci darem la mano', WoO 28

and Mark Wigglesworth, Paul

2.00 The BBC Orchestras. Con-

Watkins (cello). Dvorak: Camival

minor. Schumann: Cello Concerto

in A minor. Brahms: Symphony No

7.30 Performance on 3. Chris de

Souza introduces the second of

Borodin Quartet at St George's,

mance was given in February.

Brandon Hill, Bristol This perfor-

Brahms: String Quartet No 2 in A

6.00 Ues He Told (1996) (39177), 8.00 An

(73264). 10.00 House Arrest (1996) (18264).

American Tait: Fievel Goes West (1991)

12.00 The Directors (1950, 1.00 Holy-

wood Buzz (24871). 2.00 Lies He Told (1996) (59535). 4.00 An American Tall:

Flevel Goes West (1991) (8993). 6.00

Fig. 1: ANNUR GS IVE STORY STORY STORE (1997) (4956), 10.00 The Full Monty No. 10.00 The Full Monty Strangers (1995) (4750529), 110 The Shelter-ing Sky (1990) (4750529), 2.30 – 6.00 The War of the Roses (1989) (58746).

SKY MOVEMAX

House Arrest (1996) (66871). 8.00 Wall

7,00 A Holiday for Love (1996) (16413).

11.00 Laura Lansing Slept Here (1988) (40784). 1.00 A Holiday for Love (1996)

9.00 Spiceworld the Movie (1997) (62158).

(66974). 3.00 The Buttlercream Gang (1992) (70448). 5.00 Laura Lansing Slept

Here (1988) (91055). 7.00 Spiceworld the

Movie (1997) (90103). 9.00 Hollywood

Confidential (1997) (42245). 11.00 Brutal

Glory (1989) (320055). 12.40 Normal Life (1996) (151098). 2.25 Murphy's Romance

(1985) (209036). 4.15 - 7.00 The Butter-

4.00 Advise and Consent (1962) (1785413).

8.00 A Touch of Larceny (1959) (2336697).

8268746). 1.55 The Effect of Gamma Rays

1952562), 3.40-5.05 Seven Days' Leave

6.00 Journey to the Center of the Earth

(1959) (93481790). 8.10 Tin Men (1967)

(63609351). **10.05** The Pillow Book

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (1080719), 4.30 A River Somewhere

Africa (3810055). 7.30 The Quest

(1079603). **5.00** Hitler (1833054). **6.00**

VILIGATION OF THE PROPERTY SUSPENDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

(1070332). 8.00 Great Escapes (4188121)

8.30 Out There (5433018). 9.00 Trail-

blazers (8786351), 10,00 Inlandsis De-acent in the Ice (8683210), 11,00 Silent

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

(1995) (82575326), See Pick of the Day

12.45 Helas pour moi (1993) (5560123).

1.55 Nothing Personal (1995) (4391036). 3.20 - 6.00 Cal (1984) (18828185).

6.30 Destination Moon (1950) (9366448).

10.00 Going My Way (1944) (12537790). 12.05 No Way to Treat a Lady (1968)

on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds (1972)

(845) (96855484)

FILMFOUR

cream Gang (1992) (68564901).

four concerts given by the

Overture; Symphony No 7 in D

4.00 Voices.

5.00 In Tune.

4.45 Music Machine.

ductors Tadaaki Otaka, Paul Mann

pagne. John Gardner: Obce

Hall. Nicholas Daniel (oboe), Julius

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)

9.00 Masterworks.

11.00 Sound Stories.

10:10 John Peel 12,00 The

4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mils.

RADIO 2

RADIO 3

6.00 On Air.

EVENTS

(88-90.2MHz FM)

SATELLITE TV, RADIO/17



ISSICAL

M MALLS Lamps Allen's I Choirs and Drobes-1889 Registers Tonight Life Hoad, St. 4 (019) M Hackbeat MAIN SOURCE The

CAN THE HUMAN IN THE COMPANY OF THE COMP method works by Maraet is. Langett J. super-imente Sudare, 1491 (Ost) & Mestrunster TIME HALL BEC Con-MAIPA Wardtwarth iden Concreto and this ide's Scholeroscale Maria Came

Marie 47 50 127 50 \$11 (1771) 250(424) MUSIC MALL Catherine na Supratus Plantes 1774 Menus Annager 2 (1924) Plante Minus Will (1977)

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MARIN 1 TOWNS LIVE ON TOUR ON

TO NOT Fronting Scotland (40351).

BBC1 WALES

As \$BC1 Landon Except: 9.30

Week in Wack Out (81142). 10.00 Jailbrds (40351). 10.30 Men Betaving Bad(253621). 11.00 Footbal Millionaires
(25363). 11.50 BBy Connoisy's World

Tour of Australa (483210). 12.30 Firm:
On the Waterfront (25723). 2.20 Joins

BBC News 24 (58565077).

AMGLIA

AMGLIA
As Carthen except: 12.20 Anglia
News and Westing (720210, 12.65
Shortland Street 800050, 1.30 Horns
and Away (36674624) 1.56 The Jarry
Springer Show (9288546), 3.10 ITV

PICK OF THE DAY

IT'S A tawdry business, throwing done and at least radio spares us cultural life. the hideous glow of palpably son Neil (right), the flamboyant political film-maker. frontman of the Divine Comedy.

minor, Oo 51 No 2, Tchaikovsky:

String Quartet No 2 in F. Op 22.

9.00 Postscript. An idiosyncratic

history of classical duets and an

dancers and thinkers, 2: The

Modernist'. Apollo meets his

incidental history of loving, told by

Paddy in the Smoke (9pm R2) the media spotlight on relatives looks at the contribution the of the famous, but it's got to be Irish have made to English

TUESDAY RADIO

In The Directors (10pm R2), reflected glory. In today's The Neil Jordan, who has made two Musical Side of the Family movies - Michael Collins and (1.30pm R4), the Rt Reverend The Crying Game - about the Brian Hannon lifts the lid on Irish situation explains why his perplexed relationship with he does not see himself as a

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



9.30 Home Thoughts. 9.45 Serial: Letters from My WindmilL 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour 11.00 NEWS; Nature.

9,20 Nash Ensemble, Conductor Martyn Brabbins, lan Brown (piano), Rosemary Hardy (soprano). Beethoven: Trio in B flat, Op 11. Berg, arr de Leeuw: Seven Early Songs. Mahler: Des knaben Wunderhorn. Strauss: Suite for 13 Wind Instruments, Op 4. 10.45 Night Waves. Architects, town planners and artists all applaud it, but how does public space improve the life of those who live in cities? Richard Coles examines the meaning, function and importance of our urban social spaces and explores their relationship with architecture. He also talks to Charles Jencks, whose new book, 'Ecstatic Archi-

tecture', explores a shift from functional to sensual concerns in modern buildings. Plus the secret history of the Anasazi people of America: 'Night Waves' reports on an anthropological debate that cuts to the heart of American identity. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week:

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM

11.30 Chambers. 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 The Musical Side of the Family. See Pick of the Day. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: The Winter

3.00 NEWS; The Exchange: 0870 010 0444. 3.30 Carnival Tales.
3.45 This Sceptred Isle.
4.00 NEWS; The Learning Curve.
4.30 Shop Talk. 6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Mammon. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson with the arts programme. 7.45 The Cry of the Bittem. An environmental drama by Tim Jackson. With Ian Pepperell, Kelley Hunter and Rachel Atkins (22/30). 8.00 NEWS; Face the Facts. John Waite and his team of investigators follow up listeners' com-

8.40 In Touch. Peter White with news for visually impaired people. 9.00 NEWS; Virus - the Unseen Enemy. James Erlichman's fourpart exploartion of the life of the virus and man's struggle to contain It. 3: Although the figures for HIV infection in the West have sta-**6.00** Today. **9.00** NEWS; Unreliable Evidence.

blised, the numbers in the developing world are rocketing. Every

SATELLITE AND CABLE

Barnsley vs Tottenham

fans will be hooing that French

(2239), 8.00 Premier Snooker League

(790581). 10.15 You're on Sky Sports

(914852), 11.00 Inside Scottish Football

43727). **12.45** You're on Sky Sports

(6171630), 1.00 Snooker Leadue (71727).

7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (4917451). 7.30

Sky Sports Centre (7778513). 7.45 Racing

ws (8307448). 8.25 Moto-plus (5276

8.45 Sky Sports Centre (9278061). 9.00

Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (5449993).

at Bowts Australia vs England (1147332).

9.30 Fish TV (1061968). 10.00 Internation-

12.00 World Motor Sport (797#13). 3.00

(5028448). 5.30 International Cricket West

indies vs Australia (5077332). 10.00 Table

Termis (9186626). 11.00 Sports Unlimited

(2297982). 12.30 Fastrax (9160938). 1.00 FA Cup Football - Sixth Round Replay Barneley vs Tottenham (1542630). 2.30

Sky Sports Centre (17424098). 2.45 Close.

Livewire (19474326). 1.00 Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (31559264). 1.30 Fish TV

(19550790). 2.00 Shelfs Wonderful World

of Golf Herbert vs Van Donk (94983516).

3.00 The Golden Age of Racing A-Z of

Motorsport (27101245), 3.30 International

12.00 World Wrestling Federation -

(9163559). 12.00 The Snowboard Show

international Cricket West Indies vs Aus-

tralia (9054448). 5.00 Total Sport

3.00-3.15 Sports Centre (13886272).

SKY SPORTS 2

SKY SPORTS 3

(90806), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre

(49719), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre

JAMES RAMPTON

PICK OF THE DAY

DIRECTOR PETER GREENAWAY McGregor stars as a man who

has a rare talent for provoking becomes embroiled with an

strong reactions - Ken Russell is alluring bisexual woman (Vivian

among those to have protested Wu) who draws books on

Book (10.05pm FilmFour), an (7.30pm Sky Sports 3) is the

idiosyncratic film which bears rescheduled sixth round FA cup

out a comment the director tie which was originally called off

once made that: "I'm not a film- due to bad weather. Tottenham

Proving he does not just go in winger, David Ginola (right),

for big box-office work such as continues his rich vein of form.

about his films. Typically, critics his body.

were divided about The Pillow

maker. Fm a painter in cinema."

the new Star Wars film, Ewan

7.00 Count Duckula (98061). 7.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (91790).

8.30 Hollywood Squares (87806). 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (18005). 10.00 The

1.30 Jeopardy (15177). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (88142). 3.00 Jenny Jones

(17061). **4.00** Gultyl (30968). **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (2719). **6.00** America's

Dumbest Criminals (9351). 6.30 Dream

Team (9513). 7.90 The Simpsons (3448)

9.00 World's Wildest Police Videos

(64413). **11.00** Dream Team (31697). **11.30** Star Trek (69332). **12.30** Commi

(56982). 1.30 - 7.0 Long Play (8684007).

7.00 Sky Sports Centre (4753993), 715 V-

8.15 You're on Sky Sports (5687582), 9.00 Racing News (47887), 9.30 Aerobics - Oz

Max (589239), 7.45 Totalsport (571210).

Style (81719). 10.00 Footbal League Review (31790). 11.00 Table Tennis (55326).

12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (50351), 12.30 Total Sport (85535), 1.00 Spanish Football

ball League Review (4442). 3.30 V-Max (979). 4.00 Sports Unlimited (5258). 5.00

World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (4719).

celona v Espanyol (41784). 2.30 Foot-

(61326), 10.00 Bloody Foreigners!

SKY SPORTS 1

7.30 The Simpsons (6887). **8.00** Rescue Medics (6968). **8.30** Coppers (1603).

Oprah Wintrey Show (99992), **11.00** Guilty! (93516), **12.00** Jenny Jones

(22413). 1.00 Med about You (97332).

six seconds, someone is infected with the disease. There is no vaccine, and work on developing one has been slow. This week, the programme investigates the politics of treating diseases.

9.30 Unreliable Evidence. Clive Anderson cuts through the jargon to get to the heart of an issue which affects anvone who uses

the legal system. 10.00 The World Tonight. With lustin Webb. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Strait Is the Gate. David McKail reads an abridged version of Andre Gide's story (2/5). (R) 11.00 News. 11.05 NEWS; Do Go On. (R)

12.30 The Late Book: The Mask of Command. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast.

11.30 Talking Pictures.

12.00 News

5.40 inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. **RADIO 4 LW** (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5-54 - 5-57

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News.

Bowis Australia vs England (15471245).

(19463210), 7.00 World Motorsport

FIRMSOMET

UK GOLD

5.30 Fastrax (14043719), 6.00 Table Tennis

(27020326), 7.30 FA Cub Football Replay

Quo Football - Shoth Round Replay Berns

ley vs Tottenham (49797413). 11.30 Close.

7.30 Adventure Raid Gautoises (37974).

Cup (22974). 1L00 Football: Eurogo

8.00 Motor Sport FedEx Championship Series 1998 (85806). 9.30 Elathon World

(98790), 12,30 Snowboarding FIS World

Snocker German Masters Semi-Finals

Cup (70603). 1.00 Sied Dog (44210). 1.30

(80239), 3.00 Cycling (68719), 4.00 Foot-

ball (37608), 5-30 Stock Car Racing (21245), 7-30 Football (75500), 9-30 Foot-

ball (696326). 12.00-12.30 Rally (15949).

(9438528), **8.30** The Bill (3363887), **9.00**

The Bill (3281239), 9.30 Pride and Prelu-

dice (5097142). 10.30 Rhoda (3376351).

1L00 Dallas (4107719), 1L55 Neighbours

(75217852), 12.25 EastEnders (2032806), 1.00 Juliet Bravo (1604887), 2.00 Dallas

(7850210). 2.55 The Bill (1882581). 3.25

(3479055). 4.30 Rhoda (1071061). 5.00 All

Creatures Great and Small (9033072), 6.00 Dynasty (1617351). 7.00 The Cornedy Alter-

native: Ever Decreasing Circles (786158). 7.40 Dads Army (459581). 8.20 The Brit-

The 8# (6507090), 3,55 EastEnders

bours (6644239), 7.55 EastEnders

roads (8563871), **7.30** Neigh-

382239), See Pick of the Day. 10.00 FA

Today in Parliament.

1.00 The Cheltenham Festival. 4.10 Drive. 7.00 News Extra.

7.30 The Tuesday Match, Russell Fuller presents coverage of the night's too football action, including the second leg of the UEFA Cup quarter-finals

10.00 Late Night Live. The day's big stories with Nick Robinson, Including 10.30 a full sports roundup. 11.00 News and finance. And between 11.30 and 1.00 a sharp and spirited late-night topical dis-CUSSION.

1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM

(100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Balley. 9.00 Michael Mappin. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. London Classical Players/Roger Norrington, Brahms: Tragic Overture; Variations on a Theme of Haydn, Beethoven: Symphony No 7 in A. Handel: Water Music Suite No 1 in F11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Grif-

VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105,8MHz

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Mark Forrest. 4.00 Harriet Scott, 6.45 London Calling with Harriet Scott/AM Pete and Geoff. 7.30 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 Gary Davies, 1.00 Richard Allen, 4.30 - 6.30 Phil Kennedy. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO**

(198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today, 1.30 On Screen. 1.45 Record News. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Mapping the World. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup, 3.30 World Business Report, 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).

TALK RADIO

6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally James. 12.00 Crime Fighters. 1.00 Anna Raeburn - Live and Direct. 4.00 The SportZone. 7.00 Eubank's People. 8.00 Cheating Hearts with Jayne Irving. 10.00 James Whale. 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

tas Empire (2460429), 9.00 Red Dwarf V

(1083142). 9.40 Crime Traveller (39533245)

10.45 Bugs (53958887), 11.50 The Bill (1708784), 12.20 The Bill (6667611), 12.50

Dangerfield (2037036). 3.00 - 7.00 Shop-

plus 2 (48883581). **6.40** Greedysaurus and the Gang (98525061). **6.45** Philbert the

Frog (98524332). 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts

98449697). 7.00 Practical Parenting

(1393055), 7.30 Callou (6993719), 7.35

ing (9816413), 8.00 Barney and Friends

Tiny Tales (3090210), 8.35 Tiny and Crew

8537177). **9.00** Special Bables (8214516).

(7011500), 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show

9422264). 10.50 Maury Povich (3758142).

Rescue 911 (69309054). 120 Beyond Belief:

(4000448). 8.50 Practical Parenting

9.30 The Rossanne Show - Highlights

Through the Keyhole (21523061), 12,40

Fact or Fiction (39746500), 1.40 Maury

Povich (4028535). 2.30 Special Babies

(9281429). 3.00 Living Room (6393887).

3.50 Michael Cole (4683603), 4.40 Through the Keyhole (59832239), 5.50 The Heat is On (15624871), 5.40 Reedy, Steady,

Cook (6002871). 645 Jerry Springer Show

Animal Rescue (4965790), 8J00 LA Law

(2429351). 9.00 Films: Romance Week:

Sex Files II (7465158). 12.00 Close.

(1960) (82372291). **5.00** Close

Lover's Knot (1995) (2328210), 11.00 The

9.00 Fame (1980) (83103784), 11.30 Ada (1961) (94182577), 1.45 The Hunger (1983) (23332036), 3.30 Village of the Dammed

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL

(1245). 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey

(76784), 9,30 Whose Line is it Anyway?

90413), **10.00** Frasier (59622), **10.30**

Cheers (62142), 11.00 Seinfeld (51429).

11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (12177).

12.00 Late Night with Devid Letterman (93388) 1.00 Text (47272) 1.30 Frontine

(68253), 2.00 Dr Katz (87949), 2.30 Tibs

3.30-4.00 Abbott & Costello (90036).

and Fibs (66456), 3.00 Nichtstand (67036).

7.00 Jenny (6790), 7.30 Grace Under Fire (3581), 8.00 Elen (9210), 8.30 Spin City

(1838)77), 7.05 Rescue 91) (4887603), 7.35

11.40 Brookside (23288284, 12.10

Bug Alert (7864351). 7.55 Practical Parent-

790), 8.25 Babeloos (1395429), 8.30

3391264. 7.05 Professor Bubble

Black Adder the Third (8737833). 1.25

French and Saunders (9548253), 2.00

ping with Screenshop (8094272).

D Tiny and Cri

LIVING

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

the spa town of Enghien-les-Bains, just a few miles from Paris, finished last Friday. Running from 3 March with just a single rest day, this excellent event featured a fine mixture of up-and-coming talent and established players in a field of 10 with an average of 2603 (category 15).

To begin with, the Moldavian Viktor Bologan was in the ascendancy, racking up a most impressive 6.7. But his shocking loss in the penultimate round to Joel Lautier n just 10 moves clearly affected him, and, while Lautier draw his final game with Christian Bauer, Bologan lost his second in a row to Russian Ponomariov.

This put Lautier clear first on 5.5'9, ahead of Bologan on 6, Tkachiev and both wunderkinds Ponomariov – who won't be 16 till October - and Bacrot - who was 16 in January – on 5, Salov on 4, Beliavsky, Rausis and Sadler on 3.5 and Bauer Although he had a had tourna-

ment, Matthew Sadier was admirably upbeat when I spoke to him a couple of days after the event, extolling the venue and organisation which engendered superb fighting spirit among the players in an event without a single "Grandmaster Draw". He kindly pointed me in the direction of this fine game.

In a fashionable line of the Ruy Lopez, Black initally sacrificed a pawn, and great complications start-

THE THIRD annual tournament in ed about move 20. If 21... Bxel 22 Nxel dxel 23 Oxel Bd2 34 Oxb7+ Kf8 25.Qh8+ Ke7 26.Qxg7! is very strong since if Bxe1 27.Qf6+ Kf8 28.Rh4 wins.

> 22.Rg4!! was splendid. If then 22... Ne4 23 Roxe4! Bxe1 24 Rxe1 is simplest. Black was forced to jettison his queen for if 23... g6? 24.Qf6 or eg 23... f6 24.Bf5 Qf7 25 Rxg7+ Qxg7 26.Bxg7 Kxg7 27.Qg4+ Kh6 28.exf6 Rg8 29.Qf4+ Rg5 30 bxc3 etc. After 25.Qf3! - not 25. bxc3 Bxc3 - it was reasonably straightforward.

White Viktor Bologan Black Vladimir Tkachiev Enghien-les-Bains 1999 (Round 7) Ruy Lopez

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21.Kh1 Nxc3 22.Rg4!! Bxe1 23.Bh6 Qxg4 24.Qxg4 g6 25.Qf3 Bh4 26.Qxc3 d4 27.Qxd4 Bf6 28.Bf4 Re6 29.h3 Be7 30.Bb3 Rebt 31.Bc4 Rxb2 32.Qd7 Rf8 33.Qxc7 h6 34.Qc6 g5 35,Be3 Rb1+ 36.Bg1 Rd8

14.Ra4 Re8 15.Re1 Qd7 37.Be2 Re1 18.Nc3 Nxe5 38.0b5 Rd2 19.dxe5 Bxf3 39.e6 fxe6 20.Qxf3 Bxf2+ Black resigns

CREATIVITY

2.Nf3 Nc6

3.Bb5 a6

5.0-0 b5

4.Ba4 Nf6

6.Bb3 Bc5

7.34 Rb8

8.c3 d6

9.d4 Bb6

10.Na3 0-0

11.axb5 axb5

12.Nxb5 exd4

13.cxd4 Bg4

16.Bc2 d5

17.c5 Ne4

JOB LOSSES. Huge entry; so only one go each. Are fishermen gutted (Maureen

Hewitt)? No, that's gastro-enterologists (CM Knight). Are medieval castles demoted (Matthew White)? No. that's ophthalmologists (Mary Brooker). So: is Anna Kournikova deduced (Reg Kilby)? No, that's Benito Mussolini (Derek Holmes). Are heroes unsung (Norah

Smith) and jockeys unbridled (Glyn Vinnicombe)? Are Mediterranean holiday guides exCreted (Luela Palmer) and customs officers excised (Muriel Hocking)? Are Kwik-Fit fitters retyred (Graham Thomson) and policemen re-allo-allo-allo-cated (Douglas Whetherly)? If vasectomists get the sac (John

Lamper) and cunuchs are disseminated (John Terris), would a circumciser claim severance pay (Octavia Leigh)? Do jazzmen get the sax (Alan Cook), are musicians minimalists spoken to (Alan Brooker)? And san Tomes)? Are taxidermists don) and authors denounced (Joan Vinnicombe), are serial writers discontinued (Shirley Edmundson) and journalists goodbyelined (David Brunnen) and Creativity columnists outwitted (Philip Marlow)?

Bronsdon) and hairdressers countants given a P20+5+20 trimmed (Harold Smith), are telephonists disconnected (Rae Goddard)? If City traders are given the Porsche (Peter Thomas) and commissioners for oaths discussed (Claire Dalby), are Cyclops decentraleyesed (Richard Alderton)? If Moonies are dissected (John O'Byrne) and nuns are disordered (Patrick Daunt), is the House of Lords dismantled (Liz Golding)? If secret agents are despised

patched (Michael Coyle), are May gives birth! - for Pope Joan).

Queens dismayed (Margaret Woods)? If fishmongers are decoded (Margaret Watson) and teachers déclassé (Rosamund Hall), are softtoy makers deferred (Suzanne Cormack)? If architects are withdrawn (Drew Barrow) and midwives pushed, (L Hughes) are hatters doffed (Valerie Laurance)? Are seamen disabled (Mick, Jack

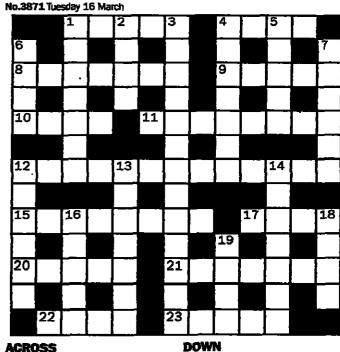
and Alfie), widows debrided (Bruce Birchall) and Trappist monks disquieted (Daniel Holloway)? Are colonic irrigationists given the burn's rush (Paul Turner) and estate agents subject to contract (Ian Hurdley)? Are fox-hunters bounded out (Mike Gifford) and undertakers boxed off (Andrew Duncan)? Are rioters demobbed (JA Kelly),

grooms destabilised (Bill Palmer) and garment-makers dematerialised (Martin Brown)? Are meteorologists disgusted (TM O'Grady), cashiers distilled (Colin O'Hare) ised (Bernard Sharp) and mime art- and Asian refugees disoriented (Suif poets are diversified (Tony Bran- stuffed (Pat Gould), jugglers dropped (Ken Moore) and balloonists let go (Tom Gaunt)? Are detectives excluded (RJ Pickles). organists stopped (JR Gore) and chefs vomited (NE Gough)?

And are Monster Raving Loony If topiarists are clipped (John Parties devoted (Peter Fooks), ac-(James P Hickey) and dyslexic bakers made rebundant (Vera James)? Norah Smith, Claire Daiby, Vera

James and Richard Alderton win a Chambers Dictionary of Quotations. Creative uses for a genetically modified tomato could win you one by writing to Creativity, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL; or e-mail Loki on: Valhalla@btinternet.com. Closing date is 25 March, On 23 March (Peter Houghton) and pirates dis- tabloid headlines from history (Pope

CONCISE CROSSWORD



Ending in similar sounds (7) Creek (5) Without feeling (4)

I1 Install as monarch (8) Trees (6,7) 15 Stimulant found in coffee (8)

21 Road surfacing (7) 22 Movement of liquid (4) 23 Unpleasant (5)

Very bad (7)

Forbidding (4)
Those in the recycling business? (3-3-4,3) Not this, not that (7) Stringed instrument (5) Middle Eastern country (4) Emphasis (6) Become unwell (6) 13 Arch of facial hair (7) 14 Vacation (7) 16 Lethal (5)

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Nightscreen (43800036). 5-00 ITV Nightscreen (51794).

CENTRAL 11.20 Central News and Westiver (482595), 4.25 Jobfinder (3383658). 5.20 Asian Eye (3277494).

(35674622). 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (3266545). 3.10 ITV News Hea

Ines (4633239). 3.15 HTV News (4625210). 5.30 Night Owls (325). 6.00 HTV News (239). 7.30 High Perfor-mance (603). 11.20 HTV News (482595). 1.30 Airwolf (6204543). 2.25 Judge Judy (9198475). 2.50 Wish You Were Here...? (8882859). 3.15 Deed Men's Tales (94035) 3.45 Nationwide Football Lague Extra (9169475), 4.40 Coach (33089833), 4.55 (TV Nightscreen 43800036). 5.00 Nightscreen (51794). HTV WEST

As HTV Wales except 5.30 Car You Keep a Secret? (\$25). 7.30 West Eye View (803).

MERIDIAN
As Cartton excepts 10.30 This
Morning (44494500), 12.45 Meridian
News and Weather (4882142), 12.55
Shortland Street (9898055), 1.30 Home
and Away (3554822), 1.55 The Jarry
Springer Show (9288546), 3.10 fTV News
Headires (4633239), 3.45 Meridian News
and Weather (4625210), 5.00 Home and
Away (3852), 5.30 Surprise Creits (329),
6.00 Meridian Tonight (239), 7.30 The
Phain (603), 11.20 Meridian News and
Weather (482595), 1.30 Airwolf
(6204543), 2.25 Judge Judy (9198475),

2.50 Wish You Were Here...? (9882659). 3.15 Deed Men's Tales (94036). 3.45 Football League Extra (9169475). 4.40 Coach (33069833). 4.55 Nightscreen (43800036). 5.00 Freescreen (51794). Westcountry

(803), 11.20 Calender News (482595), 11.30 LEFA Champions League Special (93352), 12.05 The Big Match: FA Cup Soth Round Barnsley v Tottenham Hot-spur (3503659), 3.25 Footbal League Extra (8464814), 4.35 Jobfinder (1769385

As Yorkshire except: 12.15 North East News and Weather (4962/42), 5.30 North East Tonight (95328), 7.30 Cum-brian Tales (603), 11.20 North East News and Weather (482595). As Channel 4 excepts 9.00 Ysgo-

(9004)697), **5.30** Countdown (67146351) **6.00** Newyddion (93399784), **6.10** Heno (88952887), **7.00** Pobel y Cwm (90127081), 7.30 Newyddion (67050500). 8.00 Y Sice Gelf (90030581), 8.30 Penrell (90122516), 9,00 Tair Cha

lon/Schools (28178852). 12.30 Planed Plant (26844974). 4.30 Ricki Lake (87059871). 5.00 Planed Plant: Uned 5 (37374622), 10.00 Brookside (72689974), 10.35 Queer as Folk

(38386993), 11.45 Boyz Unlimited (38386993), 11.45 Boyz Unlimited (38385264), 12.45 Chebrettem Festival (5753833), 12.45 Thomas Country (90525949), 1.45 Close.

ACROSS

Presage (5) Mediterranean resort (4)

17 Insect (4) 20 Glowing coal (5)

18 High point (4) 19 Cold sweets (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Champing, 5 Eons (Champignous), 9 React, 10 Ascot, 11 Photogenic, 14 Country cousin, 16 Black Maria, 20 Piecelo, 21 Knoll, 22 Chef, 23 Alfresco, DOWN: 1 Carapace, 2 Analogue, 3 Patio, 4 Nursery school, 6 Odin, 7 Sage, 8 Casino, 12 Usurious, 13 Intaglio, 15 Tallow, 17 Maker, 18 Epic, 19 Ache.

Warriors (8643081), 12.00 The Great Egyptians (9294291), 1.00 Hitler (2503122), 2.00 Close. 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (8803). 6.30 Inside Scottish Football (25061). 7.30 Fastrax

BBC1 M RRELAND
As BBC1 London except: 9.30
Let's Talk (\$12582): 10.20 Lailbirds (723284): 10.80 Men Behaving Badly (#1719): 11.20 Football Millionaires (960868): 12.10 Big Connelly's World Tour of Australia: \$1786080): 12.50 Firm: On the Waterfoot (254859): 2.40 Joins BBC News 24 (4883786).
BBC1 M RRELAND

BEC1 SCOTLAND
As BSC1 Loaden except: 12.30
Dotaman (2333061: 12.45 Tireen Seunta (Encianted Lands) (2143603).
10.30 Fronting Scotland; Weather (351).

News Headines (4633239), 3.15 Anglia News and Weather (4625210), 5.00 Home and Away (9376784), 5.25 About Anglia (8014332), 6.00 Anglia News (239), 7.30 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner (603), 1.30 Airwolf (6204543), 2.25 Judge Judy (9198473), 2.50 Wish You Were Hera...? (8662659), 3.15 Dead Men's Tales (94036), 3.45 Nationwide Enothel Leanue Extra (9169475), 4.40 Football League Extra (9169475). 4.40 Coach (33089833), 4.55 ITV

As Cartton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (7/20210), 12.55 Home and Away (4542284), 2.10 Heart of the Country (56453806), 5.30 Shortland Street (326), 6.00 Central News at Six (236), 7.30 Thirty Minutes (603), 11.20 Central News and Weather HTV WALES As Cartton except: 10.30 This Moming (44494500). 12.15 HTV News (482142). 12.55 Shortland Street (9898055). 1.30 Home and Away

As Carlton except: 10.30 This As Cariton except 10.30 Mestcountry News (4982142), 12.27 Illuminations (7218429), 12.55 Westcountry Lunchtime Live (4542284), 3.40 TV News Headines (4633239), 3.15 West-country News (4625210), 5.30 Our House (326), 6.00 Westcountry Live (239), 7.30 Stranger than Fiction (6 11.20 Westcountry Naws (482595). (239) 7.30 stranger train Fiction (ods). 11.20 Westcountry News (482595). 1.30 Airwolf (6204543). 2.25 Judge Judy (9198475). 2.50 Wish You Were Here...? (6682659). 3.45 Dead Men's Tales (94036). 3.45 Nationwide Pootball League Extra (9169475). 4.40 Coach (33089833), 4.55 TV Nightscreen (43800036), 5.00 Nightscreen (51794).

YORKSHITE
As Cartton except: 10.30 This Morning (4494500), 12.35 Calendar News (4962142), 12.35 Home and Away (4542264), 2.40 Coronation St (56453806), 5.30 Tonight (325), 6.00 Calendar (239), 7.30 A Brush with Ashley

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Rive Richards, Montton,

Ball Control

THE TUESDAY REVIEW

TELEVISION REVIEW

EVELATION REJULATU X plays

5.35 Neighbours. Lance is worried about his exams (S) (T) (478264).

30

7.30 EastEnders. Peggy goes into hospital for her mastectomy (S) (T) (535).

3.00 Animal Hospital. A seriously underweight hedgehog and a sheepdog with a skin condition (S) (4968).

IO.00 Men Behaving Badly. The one where Gary agrees to get rid of his beloved 25-year-old sofa (R) (S) (T) (4035). Jallbirds. Superior docu-soap, which proves the genre can cope with serious subjects. Tonl is withdrawing from heroin, while a 17-year-old inmate is brought in (S) (81142)

10.30 RIDINE Postball Millionalres. Alan Hansen meets Beckham, Owen, Shearer et al. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (567448).

11.20 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia, More easy-going travelogue mixed with concert footage of the Big Yawn – sorry, Yin (R) (S) (T) (223887).

humanitarian work for Sierra Leone

H UNHCR's urgent

35572210). **2.05** konside (R) (57 he Keyhole (R) (S) (T) (8962090)

6.30 Regional News. And weather (T) (351).

Holiday. Vietnam, Madeira, the Irish town of Kenmare, and a singles' salling holiday off the south-west coast of Turkey (S) (T) (1448).

ne Nick. A one-off programme following a week with railholyde Police, Scotland's largest force. Like TV meras have never been inside a police station before, liet Morris and Sankha Guha present (S) (9803).

Regional News; Weather (1) (1239).

BIDDE On the Waterfront (Elia Kazan 1854 US). "I could had class... I could been a contender, I could been somebody", and all that See Film of the Day, below (T) (474281).

BBC1

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Cariton has a bruised ego after he is dumped by his girlfriend (R) (S) (T) (322158).

740 The O Zone. Cher and Echo and the Bunnymen's lan McCulloch are in for a plug (S) (T) (257210).

7.30 From the Edge. Disability issues. How easy is it to be disabled and environmentally friendly? And are dest peop.'s getting a raw deal at the theatre? (S) (T) (177).

8.30 Your Money or Your Lite. Alvin Hall advises a college student with a massive debt and a couple who are struggling to pay for a retirement holiday (S) (7245)

9.00 Home Front in the Garden. A photographer is given a tropical themed garden with a 25-foot steel shark's fin in the middle of it. I'd sue (S) (T) (2581).

9.30 GIODE Close Up: Germaine Greer - Close to the Bone. As her new book on sex and gender, *The Whole Woman*, is published, here's a profile of the Australia author and academic. See *Profile of the Day*,

10.30 Newsnight. With Jeremy Paxmen (T) (171790).

11.15 Seinfeid (S) (T) (105887).

11.40 The Larry S

BBC2

UESDAY

(88839852). **1.10** The History Hour (S) (888568). **2.10** Awash with Colour (S) (58353852). **2.40** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (3107142). **2.45** Westminster (S) (T) (4657616). **3.25** News; Regional News; Weather (T) (4634868). **3.30** The Village (H) (S) (9374500). **3.55** Keye (S) (9462719). **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (S) (T) (6141264). **4.55** Esther (S) (T) (5126245). **5.30** Whose House? (S) (500).

6.25 Heartbreak High. More from those hard-hitting Sydney schoolchildren. It's exam time and end Anita and Dennis are tempted to cheat. Oh, and Nat decides to leave home (S) (T) (489581).

8.00 House Proud. Jan Tempest's Portakebin home is nearly finished and she is now using crystal therapy to ward off evil apirits. (S) (T) (5210).

8.00 Who Wa edition of quiz (S) (7

ractios. Derbyshire doctors. Sam is torn by of a pregnant woman who refuses to be or cervical cancer (S) (T) (7719).

ntly News; Weather (1) (113806).

programme focus United" (193332). **pecial.** "Preview of all - which translates as "98 per ນອາກິດ on Inter Milan vs ນາ

Conlght (T) (482595).

12.05 The Ha (498134) 11,30

nted Fishtank (3584524), 12.35 Highlander 1.30 Judge Judy (1042497), 2.15 Wish You? (9107123), 2.40 Dead Men's Tales (F) 3.05 Football Extra (8028494), To 4em.

9.00 GMTV

9.25 Trisha (57510177

3.20 Childre Rosie an 3.10 ITV Ne

ind Away (S) (T) (3852).

5.30 Good Stuff. Rowland Rivron and Wendy Douglas front the entertainment guide for London (326).

6.00 London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East (T) (239).

7.30 The Carl Mary Nigh from Gros

9.00 The Coroner. An extra edition of the documentary series about Birmingham City Coroner's office. The body of an elderly woman is found in her flat; her death having gone unnoticed for weeks. And a 21-month-old baby is found dead in her room, is there evidence of foul play? (8061).

10.30 Queer as Folk. Stuart and Vince go to Phil's funeral where they meet up with his family, Janice finally confronts Nathan about his sexuality (T) (182806).

Carlton

ha (S) (T) (8952806). **10.30** This Morning (T) 0177). **12.20** Your Shout (7120210). **12.30** ITV hilme News; Weather (T) (4534245). **12.55** London V (T) (4542264). **1.25** The Jerry Springer Show (S) 114158). **2.10** Home and Away (S) (T) (56453806). Wheel of Fortune (S) (T) (2562054).

an's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (4718603), 3,30 nd Jim (5) (9778516). 3.40 The Wombles (5) i2), 3.55 Rupert (R) (4424264). 4.15 Mike and (5) (T) (5433245). 4.40 How II (5) (T) (3395585).

ening News; Weather (T) (719).

Emmerdale. That Yorkshire mob. Zak and Butch make Mandy lady of the manor, and Marion challenges Biff about his feelings for Kathy (S) (T) (8515).

7,00

riton London Restaurent Awards 1999, htingale introduces the fourth annual awards evenor House (603).

fants to Be a MIIIIonaire? An hour-long of the exciting big-money general knowledge (T) (4055).

ws Headlines (T) (5097158).

4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (3003622). **4.55** Ricki Lake (T) (5048413). **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (868).

6.00 Dishes. Three lads cook up a dish to win a dinner date with Jenny, an advertising manager from Edinburgh (T) (581).

6.30

Home Improvement. Tim and Jill are impressed by Brad's enthusiasm for his new job (5) (T) (531).

7.00 Channel 4 News, including sport and weather. (T) (536871).

7.55 Bodyscapes. Close-up on what shaving leaves behind — hair stumps and dead cells (594993).

8.00 Brookside. Is Jacqui deliberately delaying the building work? And will Niamh muster up enough courage to go to the Adult Learning Centre? (1) (3808).

8.30 Classic British Cars. How the cars of the British Motor Corporation in the Fifties changed the demographics of car ownership in this country (T) (9413).

10.00 Father Ted. As a militant feminist singler arrives on the Island, Ted is preparing to judge the annual Lovely Girls competition (F) (S) (T) (33061).

11.10 The 11 O'Clock Show (T) (846822), 11.40 Cheltenham Festival (197158).

Much admired adaptation of a Daphne du Maurier ghost story, illmed in wintry Venice whither Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie have gone to take their minds off their dead child (5) (T) (383475).

2.40 131(M) The Rosary Murders (Fred Welton 1987 US). Donald Sutherland again, this time as a Catholic priest who turns sleuth after he takes confession from a serial killer (S) (T) (653833). To 3.55am.

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (25264). **7.00** The Big Breakfast (61993).

Channel

hannel

9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (4259581), 9.20 What the Papers Said (8799697), 9.30 Eurekal (8644871), 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (8648326), 10.00 The Number Crew (5960142), 10.10 TVM (8910516), 10.25 How We used to Live (8922351), 10.45 Worlds of Faith (9189055), 11.00 First Edition VI (3053784), 11.15 Stage One (3149535).

11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8142). 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (32332). 12.30 Bewitched (R) (S) (T) (67516). 1.00 The Atternoon Line (68852).

.00 5 News and Sport (S) (5109662). 7.00 WideWorld (8994535). 7.30 Millishake! (S) (2418061). 7.35 Wimzle's House (R) (4498790). 8.00 Havekazoo (2548413). 8.30 Deppledown Farm (R) (S) (2547784). 9.00 Instant Gardens (S) (T) (5210451). 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4270332). 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (R) (1536531). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (3467974). 11.10 Leza (S) (7719023). 12.00 S News at Noon (S) (T) (2541500). 12.30 Family Affairs (S) (T) (1992802). 1.30 The Rosearne Show (S) (1091983). 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (9970622). 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (1405210).

Allen 1986 alon of Five rows himself

1.30 The Cheitenham Festival. Forget the other glamour racing festivals of the year — Ahrtree, Royal Ascot, Epsom — this is the event that serious race-goers most look forward to And, as ever, the Irish are here in force. More so, if anything. Featuring the 2,00, 2,35, 3,15 (Champion Hurdle) and 3,55pm races (5,430,55).

5.30 100 Per Cent (S) (2217790). **5.26 5 News Update** (83242582). 30 IIII Destination America (Corey Allen 1986 US). In what starts out like a low-rent version of Five Easy Pieces (estranged petrician's son throws himsel into the blue-collar life) – this far-fetched melodrama is the fad (Bruce Greenwood) returning home for his beloved younger brother's funeral, only to end up accused of his father's murder. (T) (8794803).

6.00 5 News, including First on Five. National and international news with Kirsty Young (S) (T) (2214603).

6.30 Femily Affairs. Josh's attempts to make amends land him in hot water (S) (T) (2132055).

7.30 Natural Passions. A woman and a Kenyan rhino sanctuary (5) (T) (2138239). 7.00 Knight Rider. David Hasselhoff and his talking car. ITV used to show this in the Eighties, so presumably Channel 5 is going for the nostelgia market (98782%).

8.00 Crime Report. John Taylor is on the investigative trail in this crime and justice programme (8967/58).

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8.30 Bug Alert - What's the Story? Global warming has apparently encouraged an infestation of tougher insects and vermin. Vanessa Collingridge tries not to itch as she investigates (S) (8979993).

Loss made-for-TV remake of Woos 1990 Hong Kong mar lial arts thriller about two art thieves (Sandrine Holt and Ivan Sergal) who fall in love and are separated while fleeing the powerful crime lord who raised and trained them. Recruited by a global crime-fighting syndicate, they are forced to confront their past when they discover that their main target is their foster brother, who has vowed to punish them for their distoyalty to the "family". Fun, in a hard-kicking kind of way (T) (49018245).

10.40 Love Street. Pomo (1574332).

11.15 Two. Gus is framed for murder. Could be worse, He could be a guest on... (S) (5476871).

12.50 Live and Dangerous (S) (8982123). 4,40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7832562). 5,30 (00 Per Cent (R) (S) (8513369). To 6am. 12.10 The Jack Docherty Show (1563272).

TELEVISION GUIDS BY GERARD GILBERT



FILM OF THE DAY

ON THE WATERFRONT (12am BBC1) Elia Kazan's influential liberal melodrama – although some question the political commitment of a director who named names to the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Marion Brando is the ex-boxer Terry Malone – and the archetype for all the inarticulate rebels of Fifthes Hollywood (his "I could a been a contender" scene has been done to death). A henchman for corrupt union boss Lee J Cobb (excellent), Malone discovers a sense of responsibility thanks to the love of a dead docker's sister (Eva Marie Saint). With Rod Steiger, Karl Malden as



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ROBERT HANKS

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es about constructly aracter that can constructly aracter that can construct. But the sequentich Alan, Terry and the on Graham (Phil Daviout disposing of the boot out disposing of the boot can be constructed.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

THE FOOTBALL MILLIONAIRES (10.30pm BBC1) Alan Hansen meets some of today's 70 football player millionai (Hansen claims to have been on £800 a year when he start 1978; David Beckhain, right,currently earns £800,000). At I though this is basically an opportunity for the Scot to bag series of interviews that other journalists would kill for -y

DAY

GERMAINE GREER - CLOSE TO THE E
BBC2) At home with Germaine Greer as she
dough, talks to her dogs in French ("they kn
then") and plugs her new tome, The Whole I
see her in full flow (Mark Lawson on Late R
seems to interrupt her just when she's getti she kneads bread she kneads bread y know I'm serious y know I'm serious the Woman. Nice to be Review always etting interesting; and who revealed all an Mailer off the so the other Great;